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(SOUTH LANCASHIRE)

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H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,
Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

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A SHORT HISTORY

of

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS

(SOUTH LANCASHIRE)

COMPILED BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL F. E. WHITTON

C.M.G., *p.s.c.*

1928

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ST JAMES'S PALACE
S.W.1.

December 8, 1927.

The traditions of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers should be well known to everyone of you. They have been built up by countless acts of heroism and guarded with jealous care by those who have gone before.

In the History of the Regiment you will find your traditions. I therefore commend this book to each one of you in order that you may appreciate how sacred is the trust placed in your hands for safe keeping.

Edward

Colonel-in-Chief.

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PREFACE

THIS little book, which is an abbreviated history of the Regiment to which we are all so justly proud to belong, will, I know, receive a welcome from all ranks past and present.

It is unique, in that it is the first comprehensive record of the histories of all battalions of the Regiment to be published in one volume.

We are fortunate in possessing the individual histories of our older battalions, from which it has been possible to extract much of intense interest for inclusion in these pages. The records in our possession, however, do not extend beyond the closing years of the last century, and a period, therefore, of some thirty years has until now remained unrecorded. During this period events of world-wide importance crowded upon us with bewildering rapidity, events so far-reaching in their consequence, as to overshadow all that had gone before in the history of civilization. The great blow, when it fell, found the Regiment staunch and ready; all ranks bore themselves as did their fathers before them. But the hour of national danger brought a great call to arms entailing an increasing flow of new blood to our ranks. New battalions were formed, which, in taking our name, accepted our traditions, and marched with us to victory. Their story takes its rightful place in these pages, since it has added to the traditions of the Regiment nothing but honour.

The Regiment is a family which embraces all ranks of all battalions, and no man is worth his salt who does not know its history, and so knowing, does not place his Regiment above all else.

Tradition not only makes history, but perpetuates it. It is the rock upon which our ancestors builded in the past and builded well, and upon which to-day we maintain the high standards they have set for us.

But what is our history, what are our traditions? They are records of great deeds made glorious by gallantry and honourable by chivalry, records of high endeavour, of unselfish endurance, of an indomitable spirit however black the outlook, and of the will to go forward, however great the odds. Here in these pages you will find them. I ask you to read, mark, and learn them, so that they may not only be kept sacred and untarnished by your endeavours, but help you yourselves, and those coming after you, to create traditions of the highest order both in military prowess and in the realms of sport.

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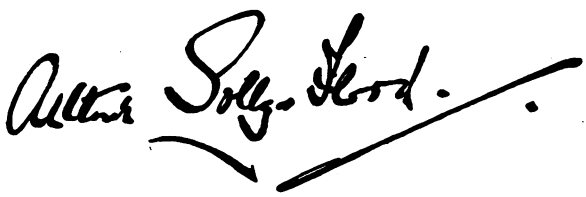
Let this book therefore help to remind you that traditions are born of great service, and ever keep before you the inspiring motto of our Regiment:

"ICH DIEN." "I SERVE."

There is no finer motto than this. If you make it yours you cannot fail to serve the Regiment in the same whole-hearted manner in which The Prince of Wales's Volunteers has ever throughout its proud history served

OUR KING AND COUNTRY.



Major-General.
Colonel, The Prince of Wales's Volunteers.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In a Short History of this nature it has not been possible to enumerate all the individuals who have helped in the compilation of this book. Particular thanks are, however, due to those who have provided information about the records of the various Battalions of the Regiment in the Great War. Thus a general acknowledgment only has been inserted, which it is intended should embrace every person who has assisted in the production of this Short History.

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THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS
(SOUTH LANCASHIRE)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales.
The Sphinx superscribed "Egypt."

BATTLE HONOURS

—

"Louisburg," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah," "St. Lucia, 1778," "Monte Video," "Rolica," "Vimiera," "Corunna," "Talavera," "Badajoz," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Niagara," "Waterloo," "Candahar, 1842," "Ghuznee, 1842," "Cabool, 1842," "Maharajpore," "Sevastopol," "Lucknow," "New Zealand," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1899-1902," "Afghanistan, 1919."

THE GREAT WAR:

"Mons," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Ypres, 1914, '15, '17, '18," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Lys," "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Sari Bair," "Baghdad," "Baluchistan, 1918."

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A SHORT HISTORY

OF

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS

(SOUTH LANCASHIRE)

PART I.—1712 TO 1914.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY DAYS OF THE 40TH REGIMENT—SERVICE IN NORTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES—"LOUISBURG"; "MARTINIQUE"; AND "HAVANNAH."

THE title "The Great War," as applied to the terrible struggle which lasted from 1914 to 1918, is in one respect unfortunate. Inevitably it suggests that all wars before that date were of minor importance and of lesser magnitude. No error could be more profound. There were great wars, and an abundance of them, long before the contest which has recently convulsed the world. We had once a Hundred Years' War with France. Two centuries later there was the Thirty Years' War in Germany. In it Austria, Bohemia, Bavaria, Denmark, Sweden and France were engaged. In it fought one of the greatest soldiers of history—Gustavus Adolphus. In it almost every village in Germany was destroyed; four-fifths of the inhabitants of Germany perished; and two centuries had to pass before Germany had fully recovered from the blow.

These wars are, however, outside the scope of this History. In more modern times there was the War of the Spanish Succession, renowned for the great triumphs of Marlborough, which began in 1702 and lasted more than ten years. A generation later another war broke out on a dynastic question; this War of the Austrian Succession continued for eight years, and so extended was its scope as to embrace three continents and to cause "black men to fight on the coast of Coromandel and red men to scalp each other by the Great Lakes of North America"—and incidentally to scalp

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sentries of what was later the 40th Foot in the forests of Nova Scotia. The Seven Years' War broke out in 1756, and our interest in it is bound up mainly in the fact that the rival ambitions of France and England in the Old World and the New had now to be decided by the sword and were so decided, and in England's favour. From 1775 to 1783, England was engaged in what may be called the War of American Independence, in which, confronted at first by the revolted colonists alone, she had later to cope with France and Spain as well. Hardly had England retired discomfited from that struggle when she was involved in a thirteen-year struggle with Revolutionary France. And after but a brief breathing space, there followed the twelve terrible years of the Napoleonic Wars, which ended only at Waterloo.

In these great wars, various combinations of Powers were engaged, but one feature was common to them all—invariably France and England were on opposite sides. And so in the great bulk of the fighting which fell to the 40th and 82nd Regiments in the century which closed with 1815, Frenchmen were the enemy against whom they fought. In addition to those wars above enumerated, to all of which the title "great" can properly be applied, there followed others in which The Prince of Wales's Volunteers were also engaged. It so happens that, by their participation in this long collection of wars, The Prince of Wales's Volunteers fought in the six continents of the globe. Long before the first shot was fired in 1914, the regular battalions of the Regiment had gathered laurels, and won honours for the colours, in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Australasia. This is a superb record. It is a record never before achieved by any fighting unit since arms were first borne by men, and one that will possibly endure till wars are ended and regiments are no more.

Although the actual formation of the 40th Regiment did not take place till some years later, the year 1712 may not unjustly be regarded as the date of the first activities of the corps. In that year detachments from various regiments were garrisoning Annapolis in Nova Scotia and Placentia in Newfoundland: a twelve-month later, orders were received that the detachments were to be dissociated from their regiments and to be formed into eight independent companies, four at each of the two stations mentioned above. At this date England and France were on opposing sides in the great war which was raging in Europe, and service in these outlying regions in America was one of exceptional severity. Nova Scotia actually belonged to France, as too did Newfoundland,

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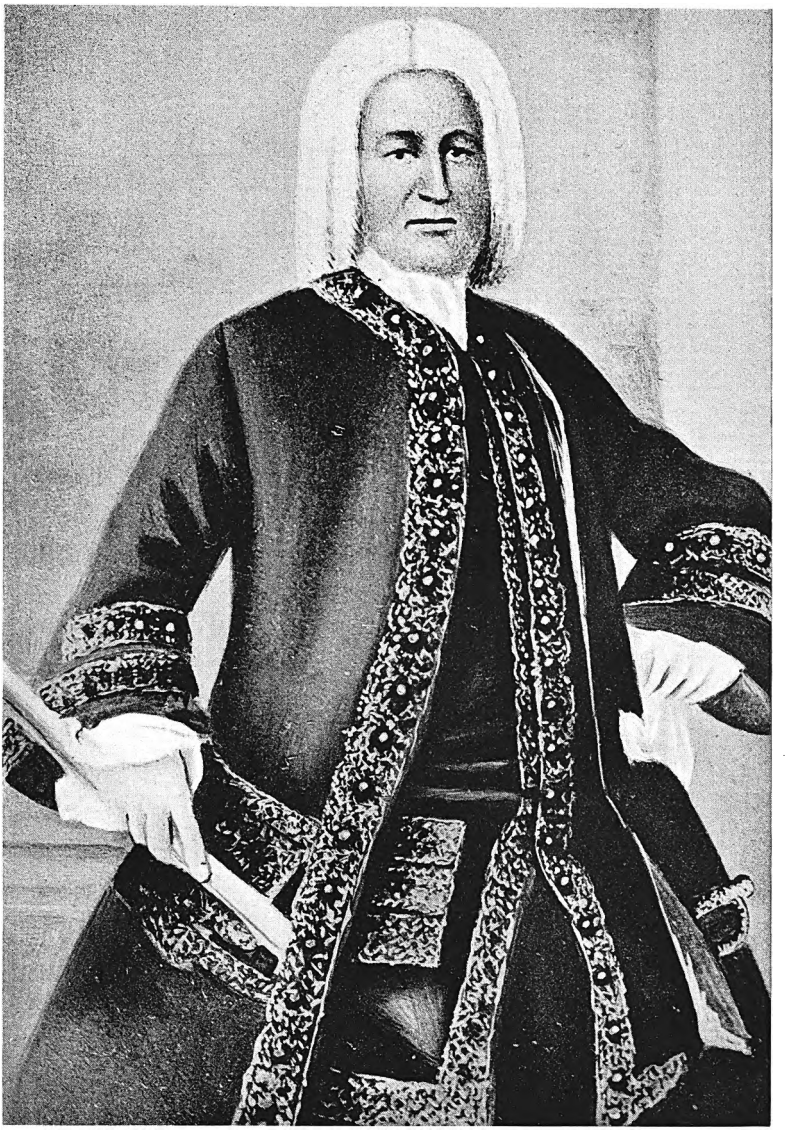

COLONEL RICHARD PHILIPPS
(afterwards Lieutenant-General),
Appointed first Colonel of the Regiment, 1717.
Governor of Nova Scotia.

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although here her claims were not so fully recognized. Both regions were sparsely populated. In Newfoundland the white inhabitants were but a handful and by far the greater part of the country was unexplored. Vast and gloomy forests covered both territories, in each case traversed but by bloodthirsty Indians. Communication with England was slow and infrequent. In winter the cold was terrible: the thermometer often sank to twenty degrees below zero: for months snow rendered the country impassable: sentries were sometimes found frozen to death. In one of the Annapolis companies a subaltern and a small party under his command were captured by Indians. Later the officer placed on record an account of his sufferings; how he had undergone inexpressible miseries; how he had been shipwrecked; forced to live for months on shell-fish and seal oil; how he narrowly escaped being roasted alive by his captors, but eventually, after wandering almost naked through hundreds of miles of forest, came to safety. Such were the conditions of soldiering in an outlying theatre of war of those days.

By 1717, peace had reigned for four years and Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had come under the British Crown. In that year the eight independent companies at Annapolis and Placentia were formed into a regiment known as " Philipps's Regiment " from the name of its commanding officer, Colonel Richard Philipps, and in accordance with the custom then prevailing. Although peace had brought about some relaxation of the strain of constant vigilance, nevertheless in Nova Scotia conditions were not ideal. The French inhabitants did not take kindly to the new state of things, and they intrigued with the Indians, who, in 1723, attacked the garrison at Annapolis, burned two houses and killed and scalped a sergeant and private, besides taking several prisoners. And it was not merely discontented French and treacherous Indians who caused trouble to the new regiment in the long and dreary years of exile. Philipps's had now five companies at Annapolis, four more at Canso, at the north-eastern extremity of Nova Scotia and opposite the French settlement of Cap Breton. There was also a detachment of one company at Placentia. As late as 1740 there were no barracks nor storehouses at Canso, and for want of these some soldiers actually perished. At Annapolis and Placentia the so-called barracks were in a shocking state. The roofs were falling in. There was no issue of fuel. In one of the North American stations, in a single night, out of two weak companies, forty-nine perished from exposure, while men in the guard room had to be awakened from time to time to save them from being frozen to death in their sleep.

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At Annapolis men could get nothing to drink but water. Meat was not issued. And when soldiers were invalided out they had to pay for their passages to England.

In 1744 the new war, which for four years had been devastating Europe, spread to the Western Hemisphere. The news of the rupture between France and England was sent out by a fast vessel to the French colony of Cap Breton, and the intelligence reached the French some time before it was known to the British in Nova Scotia. A surprise attack was made upon the garrison of Annapolis, the strength of which had fallen to less than 100 men. A proposal from the enemy that the place should surrender was rejected, and a second attempt, in which the French were assisted by numerous bands of Indians, was beaten off. Canso, however, was not so fortunate and the garrison there, reduced to eighty-seven, of whom a third were unfit, was compelled to make terms. Before the end of the war, two more attempts were made against Annapolis, the garrison of which had been strengthened, but without success, and when peace came the British flag was still flying over the lonely settlement, thanks to the resolution of the officers and men of Philipps's Regiment who garrisoned it.

An important change in the designation of the Regiment was made by Royal Warrant in 1751, when official sanction was given to the practice of distinguishing regiments by permanent numerical titles instead of by successive colonels' names as had up till then been the case. In this way the 40th came to be known by the figures under which it was to be associated with many hard-fought fields in the next century and a half. It was not long before the newly-numbered regiment was called upon to prove its worth. After several years of incessant skirmishing with French and Indians in Nova Scotia, war with France was formally declared in 1756, and the great Seven Years' War had begun.

This war marks a complete change in the military policy of England and a change by which the 40th was vouchsafed the opportunity of rendering service more active than had hitherto been the case. In the two previous great wars, the scattered garrisons in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had been left to shift for themselves and to endure as best they could—and without any recognition in the form of battle honours—the attacks made upon them by the enemy and his Indian allies. All this was now to be changed. The attempt was to be made to drive France completely from North America, in which she was at the moment the greatest territorial power.

A combined naval and military expedition was therefore

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dispatched from home to attack Louisburg in the French colony of Cap Breton Island. This expedition was based on Halifax, where the 40th was added to it. Louisburg was a place of great strategic importance. It was the chief French naval base in North American waters. It was of immense strength. The French had temporarily lost it once before, but since its recovery a million sterling had been spent on its defence. The fortifications had been planned from designs of the great Vauban himself. The walls of the fortress were a mile and a half in circumference. Upon them were mounted 250 guns and mortars, and the adjacent landing places had been strengthened to resist a landing in force. The garrison was some 3,000 strong, augmented by a similar number of seamen from the French men-of-war within the harbour, and supplemented by a corps raised from the 4,000 hardy inhabitants of the place.

The force destined for the reduction of this powerful fortress was composed chiefly of three infantry brigades with the necessary artillery, and consisted of about 12,000 men. It sailed from Halifax on May 28th, 1758, and five days later came to anchor in a bay half a dozen miles west of Louisburg. The weather was so rough and the surf ran so high, that for six days no landing was possible. On the 8th, the violence of the surf had somewhat abated. Nevertheless, the landing, covered though it was by the guns of the fleet, was an extremely difficult operation. The enemy opened fire so soon as the boats came within range, and the surf still beat so strong upon the shore that a place could hardly be found where the troops could be landed with safety. Wolfe—who was in charge of the landing—actually gave the order to retire, but his signal was misunderstood and three young subalterns commanding the leading craft urged their crews forward. A landing was effected, but not without difficulty and loss. Many boats upset, several were broken to pieces, and in some cases men were actually crushed to death by the boats being driven over them on the return of the raging surf. Thus was accomplished what had seemed a sheer impossibility and an operation which even the admiral in command had thought could not succeed.

Continued bad weather hampered the landing of stores and provisions, but on the 13th trenches were dug and the siege begun. From now onward by night and day the bombardment continued. The ramparts, the French ships, and the citadel were under incessant fire. On the 22nd the citadel was in flames. The next day the barracks were burnt to the ground and Wolfe's trenches were pushed up to the very defences of the town. The French could no longer stand to their guns, and on the 26th the white flag flew from

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the fortress. The 40th was one of the four regiments left to garrison the place. Thus ended a victorious expedition, in which the loss of the British was small when compared with the importance of the success gained. Great rejoicing took place in England, and the eleven pairs of colours which had been captured were carried in procession to St. Paul's, escorted by the Guards and to the roar of an artillery salute. And thus was won by the 40th Regiment its first honour—" Louisburg."

It was soon afterwards decided by the Government of the day to follow up the victory of Louisburg by an expedition up the St. Lawrence against Quebec. As a regiment, the 40th was not destined to take part in what may be regarded as one of the decisive battles of the world, for the victory of Quebec finally decided that the development and future of Canada should not be in French but in British hands. Nevertheless, the Regiment was represented, and splendidly so, by a detachment from it. From the units left to garrison Louisburg, the grenadier companies were taken and formed into a battalion, called for convenience the " Louisburg Grenadiers." In the campaign which followed, this battalion, and another similarly formed, played a stirring part. In the first attempt against the enemy's position east of Quebec the grenadiers acted with an impetuous valour which unfortunately cost them dear. Thrown ashore to cover the disembarkation of the remainder of the force, the grenadiers, proud of their post of preference and glowing with inter-regimental rivalry, could not be restrained by their officers but raced unsupported against the enemy's position. A bloody repulse was the result, and nothing remained but to withdraw the troops and to abandon the attempt. Ten weeks later, however, on the historic Heights of Abraham, the grenadiers showed that they could combine discipline with fiery courage. In this battle, which sealed the fate of Quebec, and where Wolfe and Montcalm fell, the Louisburg Grenadiers nobly retrieved their previous error. Their losses, which amounted to a quarter of their number engaged, bear witness to the part they played.

Further up the St. Lawrence, Montreal was the only place of any strength now remaining in possession of the French, and its capture was therefore of prime importance. For this new expedition the 40th was brought up from Louisburg and it joined in the force operating against Montreal, which place capitulated on September 7th, 1760. And thus the 40th, after nearly half a century of hardship and exile, found itself in at the death and present at the act by which the conquest of Canada was completed and that great dominion brought under the British Crown.

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A GRENADIER, 40TH FOOT, 1751.

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After the fall of the French strong places in Canada, it was decided to carry on with the policy of attack and to send as many British regiments as could be spared to co-operate in an attack upon the French possessions in the West Indies. It was in this way that at the end of 1761 the 40th Regiment found itself at Barbados as one of eighteen regiments there assembled. About 120 miles away was the French island of Martinique, and against it the expedition sailed early in January, 1762. Here the enemy was taken by surprise, and—differing from the experience at Louisburg four years earlier—the landing was carried out without loss. The French garrison was outnumbered by the invaders. Nevertheless, it put up a most gallant resistance and, although the ultimate result was never in serious doubt, the British had to endure a loss of 96 killed and nearly 400 wounded before the island was surrendered. Thus came the 40th's second battle honour, " Martinique, 1762," and here the Regiment remained for some months until war against a new enemy was to bring yet another honour to the colours.

For six years, England and Prussia had been fighting France and Austria in Europe, and now Spain joined in on the side against England. As the capture of Martinique had left a large number of regiments available in the West Indies, it was resolved to use some of them against the Spanish possessions in that part of the globe. The choice fell upon Havannah, the capital of Cuba and the centre of the whole of the navigation and commerce of the Spanish West Indies. Apart from this, Cuba was an immense island of extraordinary wealth, and its value was equal almost to that of the whole of India. A strong naval and military expedition was fitted out in England and proceeded to Martinique, where, amongst other regiments, it picked up the 40th of those which had taken part in the recent fighting. On June 5th, 1763, the fleet arrived in sight of Havannah, and two days later a landing was effected six miles from the great castle of Moro on the northern side of Havannah Harbour. Siege operations were immediately begun and soon, in that deadly climate, the hardships became almost insupportable. Sickness and hard work reduced the army by nearly half its numbers, and in one way or another nearly 5,000 soldiers and some 3,000 sailors were unfit for duty. A want of provisions made matters worse, and to this was added a deficiency of water, which, in the exhausting conditions of a West Indian summer, aggravated the sufferings of the sick and wounded and made their condition almost intolerable. Thousands died of sickness during the operations. But in spite of sufferings and hardships, the *moral* of the British sailors and soldiers remained steady All ranks

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worked with resolution, and when the Spaniards, finding that their position was precarious, made a desperate sortie with their whole force, they were repulsed with heavy slaughter. Finally, on August 13th, the town surrendered, and owing to indomitable pluck and perseverance on the part of the besiegers success at last crowned their efforts, but not without a loss of nearly three thousand of all ranks. "Havannah" was a battle honour dearly won.

Detailed to form part of the garrison of the captured place, the 40th remained there for just a year. It will bring home to us the remoteness of the West Indies of those days when it is mentioned that, although peace in Europe had been signed on February 10th, 1764, it was not until a Spanish fleet arrived on June 30th that the news was known. By the terms of the peace, Havannah was to be restored to Spain. The 40th Regiment was brought back to Nova Scotia and at the end of the year, at long last, it left America and landed in Ireland.

Thus ended what may be called the first period of the life of the 40th. For nearly half a century it had served without relief and for a good part of that time during a state of war. This era in the life of the Regiment had been marked by three of the great wars of history, and the fighting in North America had secured an enormous portion of that continent as the heritage of the British race. In the long struggle between France and England the 40th Regiment had borne its share and played its part; and not only in the actual battles which brought honours to its colours, but by a long exile patiently borne in a dreary and inhospitable portion of the globe.

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CHAPTER II.

The 40th Returns to North America—The War of American Independence—"St. Lucia, 1778."

After ten years or so of peace-soldiering in Ireland, the 40th was fated once again to cross the Atlantic. It must be remembered that what is now known as the United States of America was represented in those days by thirteen British colonies strung along the Atlantic coast-line. Friction had arisen between these colonies and the home government over the question of taxation, and the colonists had determined to shake off their allegiance to the British Crown. The Government resolved to suppress the movement by force of arms. Accordingly, the 40th was embarked at Cork in May, 1775, and landed at Boston on June 25th, missing by a week the Battle of Bunker's Hill, where the British had been victorious at the end of a bloody engagement. During the winter, the British troops encamped round Boston suffered great hardships, and when the Americans seized some high ground which seriously threatened the British position, our forces were withdrawn by sea to Halifax to rest and refit.

On June 19th, 1776, operations were resumed. General Howe, the British commander-in-chief, resolved to try to secure New York and with it the command of the River Hudson. A landing was effected on Long Island and the British moved along it from east to west in three columns, driving the Americans back upon their lines at Brooklyn, opposite New York. The conduct of the troops in this operation elicited high praise from the Commander-in-Chief, who declared in his despatches that "the behaviour of both officers and soldiers was highly to their honour. More determined courage and steadiness in troops have never been experienced, or a greater ardour to distinguish themselves." During the fighting an exploit was performed by an officer of the 40th which would have won for him the Victoria Cross to-day. The commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Grant, fell desperately wounded in hand-to-hand fighting. Dashing into the ranks of the enemy, Lieutenant Doyle, followed by some of the Regiment, rescued the colonel, but unfortunately it was but his corpse that was borne back, for he had already breathed his last.

New York was evacuated by the Americans, but in spite of a close pursuit they baffled the British by rapid and dexterous move-

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ments. The British army now went into winter quarters, the 40th, together with the 17th and 55th Regiments, being cantoned in Brunswick, near which place the 40th was involved in a smart engagement in the early days of 1777. Matters had now come rather to a deadlock, and accordingly General Howe determined to shift the theatre of operations. Embarking his army, he left New York and landed in Chesapeake Bay, from which place he advanced on Philadelphia. The American general, George Washington, took up a position covering the town, with the River Brandywine to his front. In the battle which ensued the Americans were routed with considerable loss, and the British entered Philadelphia. The 40th were again in Major-General Grant's brigade with the 5th, 10th, 27th and 55th Regiments, except the flank companies which were with General Howe's column.

Unfortunately, this victory was offset by a disaster in the north, where an army of some 6,000 under General Burgoyne advanced from Canada towards New York with the idea of co-operating with General Howe, only to find that he had gone. Burgoyne was heavily attacked at Saratoga and forced to surrender with his whole army. At Philadelphia the Americans soon made another attack against the village of Germantown where the headquarters of the British were posted. In this engagement the 40th Regiment especially distinguished itself, making a stand by holding a strong stone building in the village. In this way the separation of the right and left wings of the army was prevented. An account of this action describes the 40th Regiment as being " one of the most highly disciplined and most devoted to its colours of any in the British service."

At the beginning of 1778, an important change in the state of affairs took place. The King of France declared war against England and agreed to help the Americans. It was decided to concentrate the British once again round New York, but the 40th had now an interlude and was engaged for a time on another expedition. Once more it was decided to send an expedition to harry the French West Indies, and once more the 40th found itself at Barbados—this time as part of a force of 5,000 men at the end of 1778. The French island of St. Lucia was the objective, and on December 13th a landing was effected. Two days later a French fleet appeared with large reinforcements on board, and landed over 9,000 men. Some very fierce fighting ensued, but the British had a strong defensive position and beat off the impetuous attacks of the French, suffering only 10 killed and 130 wounded against 400 killed and 1,100 wounded on the side of the French. Before the

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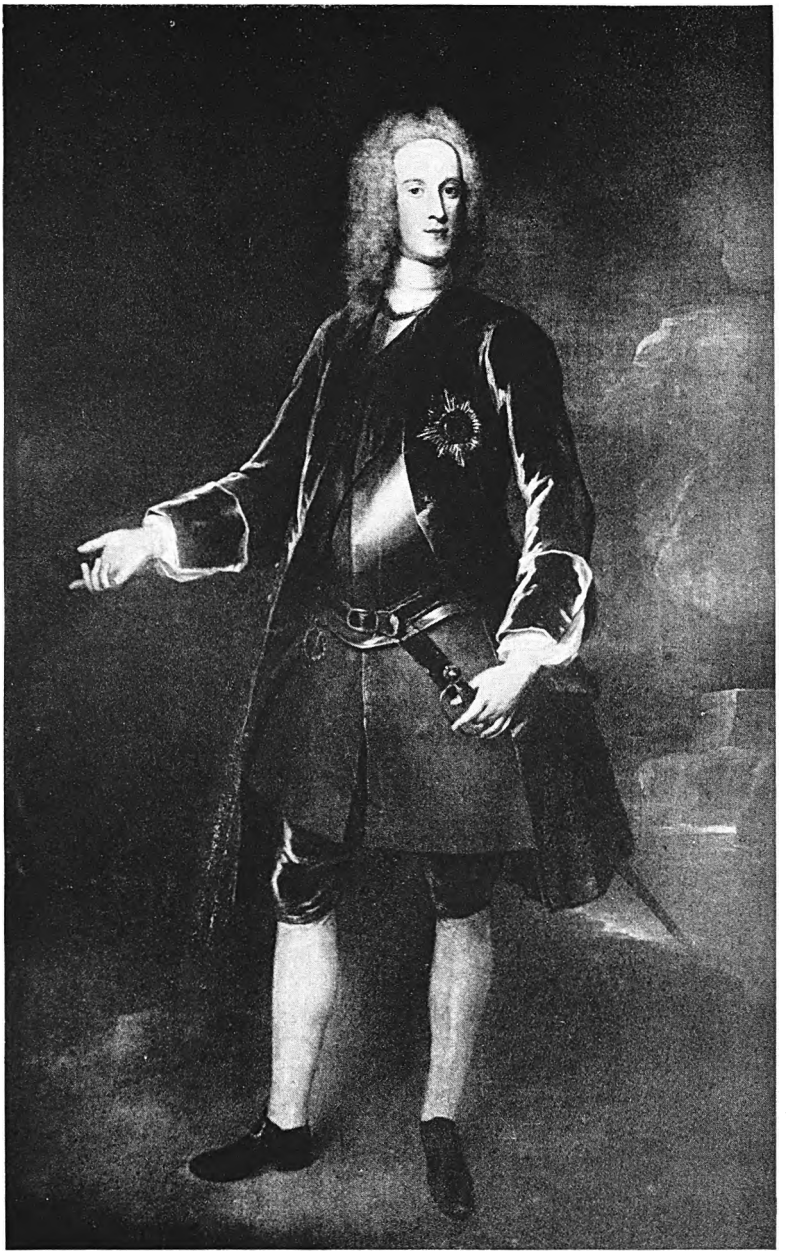

DUKE OF HAMILTON.

Douglas, 8th Duke of Hamilton and 5th Duke of Brandon, who, prior to the formation of the 82nd Prince of Wales's Volunteers, raised, in 1778, the 82nd Regiment of Foot, which did good service in North America, and held Captain's rank in it.

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year was out, the island had capitulated, and it was this successful expedition which brought "St. Lucia, 1778," to the Colours of the Regiment.

For a further eighteen months, the 40th remained in the West Indies, and in some lesser operations among the islands it became involved in a brisk naval engagement in which it lost six men killed. The bulk of the period, however, was spent in Antigua, from which island the Regiment returned to America in June, 1781. In the following August, the 40th took part in a very spirited attack upon an American work known as Fort Griswold. In this attack the 40th was working with the 54th Regiment, some loyal colonists known as the New Jersey Volunteers, and a detachment of artillery. In spite of a brave and obstinate resistance by the American garrison, the place was finally rushed. In the attack the commanding officer of the 40th was wounded: his place was taken by Major Montgomery, who fell dead just in the moment of victory. In all, the Regiment had 34 killed in this affair, including five officers. Soon after this, the war was virtually over, for an army under Lord Cornwallis was overpowered and compelled to surrender by superior numbers of Americans and their French allies. Peace negotiations were set on foot; the independence of the United States was recognized; and towards the end of 1783 the 40th left America with the last of the British garrison. In this war the Regiment had seen some hard fighting and had lived up to its traditions, but no honours are borne on the colours of any regiment for this campaign owing to the fact that technically it was a lost war. But it must be remembered that England was fighting not only the Americans, but the French and Spanish as well, and that the reverses in America were offset by brilliant successes in India and by splendid victories at sea.

The Regiment arrived in England in the closing days of the year and was now known by a new title, for county titles were now bestowed upon regiments not already in possession of some distinctive designation in addition to their numbers. In this way the 40th received the additional title of 2nd Somersetshire, which it bore until, nearly a hundred years later, it was amalgamated with the 82nd The Prince of Wales's Volunteers to form the South Lancashire Regiment. Ten years of service in England and Ireland now followed, but before this tour was finished there occurred one of the most stupendous episodes in history: an episode which plunged Europe into war for over twenty years, and an episode which threw up one of the greatest soldiers of all time. This episode was the French Revolution.

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CHAPTER III.

The 40th Engaged in the Low Countries—Formation of the 82nd—Both Regiments Engaged in the West Indies.

In 1793, France was, broadly speaking, at war with the whole of Europe, England included. The effort of England was at first directed to allied operations in what is now called Belgium, but which then belonged to Austria and was usually known as the Austrian Netherlands or the Low Countries. The French revolutionary levies had gained possession of this territory in 1792; they were ejected in the following year; and now in 1794 the French were committed to another great effort to wrest Belgium from the Austrian, British and Hanoverian forces that were holding it.

During the earlier part of this year, the 40th had been engaged in an abortive expedition to help the Royalists in Northern France. Without landing in France, but after many weeks' tossing about in the Channel, the force had been sent to the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. In June, 1794, it was summoned as a reinforcement to Belgium and landed at Ostend on June 26th. On that very day, however, the Allies in Belgium were defeated by the French at the Battle of Fleurus, and Austrian dominion in the Netherlands was finally over. The 40th—less its flank companies—and the other regiments accompanying it, amounting to about 8,000 men under Lord Moira, were therefore called upon to take part in a campaign which for all practical purposes had already been decided.

Lord Moira joined the Duke of York, the British Commander-in-Chief, about half-way between Brussels and Antwerp. Divided counsels and conflicting interests had separated the Allies after the Battle of Fleurus. The British were forced to retire northwards into Holland and to take post behind the River Waal. With the approach of winter, the sufferings of the soldiers became severe. The administrative departments of the Army had sunk into a state of terrible inefficiency. Clothing was poor in quality and so scanty in issue that many in the ranks were almost naked. The transport arrangements were inconceivably wretched. The medical service was disgraceful. When frost set in, the cold was so intense that life in tents became almost insupportable. Most of the men had double tents, but even this was not sufficient. Huts of sods were

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built and thatched over. Other men, however, were housed in open barns and, miserably clothed, they fell fast from cold and typhus. Very few had greatcoats. The Waal froze to such thickness that its value as an obstacle disappeared, and the French made a general attack in which the brigade in which was the 40th suffered many casualties, although the Regiment itself was not seriously engaged. A further retirement was now necessary, and the hardships of that retreat have seldom been surpassed. Day after day the cold steadily increased, and those of the army who woke on the morning of January 17th saw about them such a sight as they never forgot. Far as the eye could reach over the whitened plain were scattered gun limbers, waggons, sutlers carts and private carriages. Beside them lay the horses, dead. And dead, too, round them were scores and hundreds of frozen soldiers. It was now realized that if the remnant of the British force was to be saved it must be re-embarked and brought home forthwith. Accordingly orders were given to march into Germany and make for the port of Bremen. Here the army took shipping in the middle of April and the 40th soon found itself back in England. But only for a few weeks, for once more was the Regiment to cross the Atlantic and fight once again in the West Indies.

While the 40th Regiment is resting and refitting after the sufferings of the mismanaged campaign in the Netherlands, advantage may be taken of the pause in its story to relate the birth of the regiment which nearly a century later was to be united with it as the 2nd Battalion. The war with France had led to an increase in the British Army, and one of the new units was the 82nd Regiment, to which, by the special permission of the Prince of Wales, later King George IV, was accorded the distinctive title of "The Prince of Wales's Volunteers." It was placed on the establishment of the Army on September 27th, 1793, and in June, 1795, it sailed from Gibraltar for service in Santo Domingo, where, as we shall see, it was engaged in sharp fighting in which also the 40th was for a time a participant.

It happened, therefore, that in July, 1795, both the 40th and the 82nd were on the high seas bound for the West Indies. The 82nd was just arriving at Santo Domingo—a part of the great and rich island of Haiti—while the 40th was leaving England with St. Vincent as its objective. It will be convenient to deal first with the 40th, as an opportunity will thus be given for relating here the experiences of the flank companies, which had been detached for service in the West Indies while the main body of the Regiment was fighting in the Austrian Netherlands.

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The flank companies had arrived at Barbados in January, 1794, where a force had been assembled to operate against the French islands. Martinique was taken after a sharp fight; St. Lucia fell in three days; and Guadaloupe fell on April 20th. So far, all was well. But the French threw large reinforcements into Guadaloupe. The British made a daring attack, but, misled by their guides, they were forced to break off the fight and to retire to their corner of the island. Here sickness broke out with such violence as to render the force incapable of action. In this desperate extremity the camp was surrounded and attacked by the French. With indomitable pluck the garrison held out until October 6th, when, reduced to 150 effectives, it was forced to surrender. In recognition of the gallant defence, the French promised to allow the survivors to march out with the honours of war and to transport them to England. The agreement was not kept, and many of those who capitulated were crowded in hulks as prisoners of war.

The year following that in which the flank companies were thus reduced to extremity at Guadaloupe, the 40th—with the 54th and 59th—were victorious in the island of St. Vincent, two hundred miles away. A counter-attack, however, drove the British back to the sea and they were unable to advance again into the island. So soon as the news of the mishaps in the West Indies reached the Government, it was decided to send out a larger expedition, and this landed at St. Vincent in June, 1796. With this expedition the 40th and the other regiments in the island co-operated, with the result that after some stiff fighting the island was definitely conquered and the French forced to surrender. After this, the 40th seems to have been engaged in some other minor enterprise in the islands until July, 1797, when it went to Santo Domingo, where the 82nd had been engaged for the past two years.

When the 82nd had landed to reinforce the British garrison, the addition of nearly a thousand fresh soldiers enabled the British commander to take the offensive. It was an odd war, in which the old Prince of Wales's Volunteers were to receive their baptism of fire. The enemy were some whites, numerous mulattoes, and hordes of negroes, all on a level owing to the doctrines of the Revolution. By far the most able commander on the enemy's side was a black man, Toussaint L'Ouverture. There was a good deal of hard fighting in the form of small engagements, and there was an immense amount of sickness caused by a deadly climate. In spite, however, of its heavy losses by yellow fever, the 82nd carried out its arduous duties with exemplary courage and fortitude; this was strikingly demonstrated by the conduct of Lieutenant Talbot, referred

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to by Sir Brent Spencer, commanding the forces, as "an officer of extraordinary bravery"—who, with a small detachment under his command, defended an isolated position named Fort Trois against a desperate attack made by some thousands of savage negroes. The defence was so stubborn that, after suffering a loss of over 1,000 killed and wounded, the enemy retreated, but just before this Lieutenant Talbot was unfortunately killed. In defence of another fort, Sergeant Shaw picked up a shell which had fallen at the door of a powder magazine, and, lifting it on to his head, coolly walked to the parapet and threw it over into the ditch, where it harmlessly exploded.

Meanwhile, however, the ravages of the climate had reduced the 82nd itself to something less than a skeleton. Actually it consisted of the colours, a few officers, and a handful of other ranks, who were dispersed among other corps. In July of this year, the 40th landed in the island and for several months were engaged in the same harassing and dangerous operations, with incessant sickness. Finally, an arrangement was entered into with the negro commander by which the British evacuated the island, and thus ended five years of unsatisfactory and bloody warfare, during which 20,000 British soldiers and sailors found their graves on those pestilential shores. The surviving troops were removed to Jamaica and were brought back to England early in 1799. The 82nd landed at Gravesend with about two dozen effectives, having lost during the operations in Santo Domingo 22 officers and about 1,000 other ranks. The 40th disembarked at Portsmouth and its total strength was under 80 all told. Such was the first co-operation between the two regiments which were later to be united into one. And such was the campaign which brings home to us that it was not only in the Great War of yesterday that regiments were called upon to sacrifice themselves for their country.

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CHAPTER IV.

The 40th Engaged in Holland—The 40th and 82nd Brigaded Together in Minorca—The Flank Companies of the 40th at Aboukir and Alexandria—"Egypt."

Very quickly the 40th was brought up to strength, and a 2nd Battalion was even added to it, the two units taking the field in the summer of 1799. France had by this time absorbed Holland, and a joint Russo-British expedition was decided upon, with the intention of restoring Holland to the Dutch. The two battalions of the 40th landed in Holland early in September and were soon engaged in helping to repel an attack by the French. A combined advance by the Russians and British brought about the First Battle of Alkmaar. The 40th formed part of a column directed against the enemy's right and acted with characteristic gallantry. The two battalions under Colonel Spencer, having discovered an approach on the right, instantly prepared to storm it. The intrepid corps was received by a terrible discharge of small arms, grape, round shot and shells. From this destructive tempest it took a momentary shelter behind an angular embankment, upon which the enemy, supposing that the British had retreated, sallied out from his works in pursuit. He was, however, soon compelled to face about, and was so closely followed by the 40th that the Regiment entered the lines with the fugitives at the point of the bayonet, upon which the enemy abandoned them and retreated in confusion towards Alkmaar with the loss of 1,700 killed, wounded and prisoners, and 14 pieces of artillery. This brilliant achievement cost the 40th upwards of 11 officers and 150 men.

A second attempt was made by the Allies on October 2nd and met with considerable success, but it was found impossible to continue the campaign with advantage. The combination of Russians and British was not satisfactory. The Dutch people on whose behalf the war was being carried on did not appreciate the efforts of the Allies. The French were largely reinforced, and the state of the weather and a total want of supplies prevented the Duke of York from acting effectually against the enemy. In these circumstances, it was decided to evacuate Holland, and the 40th once more found itself in England.

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LOYAL WARRINGTON VOLUNTEERS (BLUE BACKS) 1798.
The Ancestors of the 4th Battalion Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire).

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After a short spell at home, both battalions proceeded to Minorca, where, by a curious coincidence, the 82nd also soon arrived, and the two battalions of the 40th and the 82nd were formed into a brigade commanded by Lord Craven. It was reviewed on August 9th by Sir Ralph Abercromby, who testified in his report to the extremely satisfactory state of this brigade, which was the forerunner of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) as we know it to-day. The reunion of the two regiments was, however, but of short duration, for very shortly afterwards the two battalions of the 40th were dispatched to Malta. At this time, a French army was in Egypt, which country Buonaparte had seized with the intention of making himself master of India. His plan had been foiled by Nelson's great victory in the Battle of the Nile, by which the army was cut off from France. Buonaparte himself managed to make his escape back to France, leaving his army still in Egypt. To deal with that army, a British force was now to be sent to Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercromby.

The 40th begged to be allowed to take part in the campaign, and Sir Ralph Abercromby was pleased to select the flank companies —that is to say, the grenadier and light companies—from each battalion, or four companies in all. He thanked the Regiment on parade and said that he returned his sincere acknowledgment for their gallant offer of service, which, while it manifested a zeal for their King and country, so honourable to themselves, enabled him to avail himself of the assistance of their gallant commander, an officer equally distinguished for his zeal and military talents.

The fleet carrying the expedition came to anchor in Aboukir Bay on March 2nd, 1801. Owing to a heavy surf, the disembarkation did not take place till a week later. Then—until it was matched by Gallipoli in 1915—took place one of the most remarkable engagements that has ever been known even in the history of the British Army. The French, 2,000 strong, were drawn up on the top of some sand-hills, which appeared almost inaccessible and in places were some sixty feet high. From this commanding position they directed a heavy fire, simply ploughing up the water with their artillery and musketry. It was Louisburg over again, but far worse. The troops renewed their efforts and, in spite of all opposition, gained the shore. Lieut.-Colonel Spencer was the first man to leap ashore. The 23rd and 40th rushed up the heights with almost preternatural energy, never firing a shot, but charging with the bayonet the French battalions which crowned them, breaking and pursuing them until they carried the two mole-hills beyond, taking at the same time three French guns. On this achievement probably

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hung the fate of the whole campaign. His Majesty King George III was pleased to convey his approbation in the words, "The boldness of the approach to the coast of Aboukir in defiance of a powerful and well directed artillery, the orderly formation under the heaviest fire of grape and musketry, the reception and repulse of the enemy's cavalry and infantry—the subsequent charge of our troops—which decided the victory and established a footing on the shores of Egypt—are circumstances of glory never surpassed in the military annals of the world."

Then followed the Battle of Alexandria, in which the French attacked with characteristic dash and gallantry, advancing early in the morning under cover of darkness. During the day the 42nd Regiment was suddenly attacked by French cavalry and for the moment was overwhelmed. But the situation was restored by the coolness of the 40th, who poured in volley after volley and completely dispersed the enemy horsemen. By 10 a.m. all the French attacks had failed and the British were left exhausted but victorious and mourning the loss of their beloved commander, Sir Ralph Abercromby. Some further fighting took place during the summer, in which the 40th companies were engaged—but towards the end of September the French army capitulated. The flank companies returned to Malta in October and, after a short stay in Minorca, the Regiment reached England in June, 1802. The Sphinx, superscribed "Egypt," testifies to this campaign. Peace was now declared and, Minorca having been ceded to Spain, the 82nd was likewise brought home, landing at Cork at the end of July. The 2nd Battalion of the 40th was now reduced.

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CHAPTER V.

The 40th in South America—"Monte Video"—The 82nd at Copenhagen.

The Peace of Amiens proved to be a mere breathing space—a sort of half-time—and in the following year England and France were again at war. Spain was soon against us, too, and there resulted a curious expedition. A British force from the Cape of Good Hope proceeded to South America and captured Buenos Ayres, the leading Spanish city on that continent. The Spaniards regained it, and another expedition was dispatched from England in September, 1806, and of this force the 40th formed part.

The objective was Monte Video, a city on the other bank of the River Plate and about 160 miles across to Buenos Ayres. On January 17th, 1807, Monte Video was reached. Once more the 40th had the experience of disembarking under fire, and once more they won through. The whole force got ashore and, as the city was on a neck of land, the invaders cut off all communication from the interior. The Spaniards made a sally on the 20th and actually drove in some British picquets, but the 40th soon put a different complexion on things. Three companies of the Regiment took part in a charge against the Spanish, who, however, gallantly received the onslaught and a stiff hand-to-hand fight ensued, until the enemy were driven back with the bayonet with the loss of 1,500 killed and wounded and about the same number taken prisoners.

A regular siege then began. By February 2nd the batteries had effected a breach. At two o'clock on the morning on the 3rd the British advanced silently to the assault. The besiegers had used the hours of darkness to erect a strong barricade across the breach. The night was extremely dark and when the barricade was encountered it was mistaken for part of the wall. In this situation the troops remained under a heavy fire for a quarter of an hour, when the breach was discovered by Captain Renny of the 40th, who pointed it out and gallantly fell as he mounted it. The troops impetuously rushed to the assault. No difficulties could restrain their ardour and they quickly fought their way into the city. Undismayed by the losses inflicted by guns in the streets and by musketry from the houses, the troops advanced, clearing everything

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with the bayonet. The 40th followed, likewise missing the breach and passing twice through the fire of the batteries, losing their commander, Major Dalrymple, who was killed. When morning broke, however, the city was in the hands of the British except for the citadel, which surrendered after the commandant had been picked off by a sharpshooter. The affair had been a hot one. The enemy's loss had been great. Eight hundred were killed, 500 wounded and 2,000 officers and men were made prisoners. The 40th had 4 officers killed and 5 severely wounded. During the fight Sergeant William Luxton of the Regiment seized a live shell which had pitched in a battery and threw it over the parapet, where it immediately exploded, fortunately without effecting any injury. For this gallant action he received the thanks of the commander of the forces in a special general order, and was awarded a special medal to commemorate the event.

In another engagement higher up the river, the chief loss fell upon the 40th, " which corps," says the official report, " supported most gallantly its well established character." Reinforcements having arrived, a general attack was now decided on against Buenos Ayres. The 40th happened to be on detached duty and thus missed the assault. Fortunately, for the attempt, though gallantly made, failed and a treaty was concluded by which Monte Video, which had been so gallantly captured, and the River Plate had to be evacuated by the British. And so by the end of the year the 40th was once again back in England and subsequently received the royal authority for the well-earned honour " Monte Video."

While the 40th had been gathering fresh laurels in South America, the 82nd had not been idle. It took part in an expedition against Denmark in this year. We had no quarrel with the Danes. But by this time Buonaparte—now the Emperor Napoleon—was practically master of Europe and he had his eyes on the Danish fleet which he proposed to use against England. To prevent this, the British Government asked Denmark to hand over its navy for safe custody. The Danes, naturally enough, refused, and it was determined to take it by force. Accordingly, an expedition was sent, which included the 82nd Regiment. Copenhagen was taken and the Danish fleet was brought to England. The Regiment received high praise for the vigour and resolution it displayed in maintaining throughout the siege a post of great importance, and the commanding officer was knighted in acknowledgment of the services of his regiment.

The next seven years form one of the noblest chapters in the history of the Prince of Wales's Volunteers. In that mighty

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PYRENEES, 1813.

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struggle known as the Peninsular War, twelve honours were added to the Colours, of which several are shared by both the 40th and 82nd. Each of these two regiments covered itself with glory in the fighting which raged in Portugal and in Spain, and both received high commendation from the great commander under whom they fought.

Napoleon was able to override the Continent, but England was unsubdued. To bring her to her knees, he devised a system by which countries were forbidden to trade with the United Kingdom, and Portugal was called upon to comply. Further, Napoleon, profiting by internal trouble in Spain, made himself master of that country. England determined to send powerful military aid to the Peninsula under Sir Arthur Wellesley, later Lord, and later still the Duke of Wellington. Of the two regiments with which we are concerned, the 82nd was the first to land in the Peninsula, concentrating at Cadiz in May, 1808, after a stormy voyage which had separated the companies of the Regiment for over six months. The force to which it belonged was taken by sea to Mondego Bay in Portugal, where it arrived on August 1st. Other British troops were seen to be disembarking at the time. These were the force under Sir Arthur Wellesley, in which was the 40th Regiment, so that once again the 40th and 82nd were about to take the field together.

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CHAPTER VI.

THE 40TH AND 82ND IN THE PENINSULAR WAR—"ROLICA"; "VIMIERA"; "CORUNNA"; "TALAVERA"; "BADAJOZ"; "SALAMANCA"; "VITTORIA"; "PYRENEES"; "NIVELLE"; "ORTHES"; "TOULOUSE"; "PENINSULA."

HEADING south for Lisbon, Sir Arthur Wellesley found a French force barring his way near the village of Roliça, and an obstinate engagement ensued in which the enemy, though outnumbered, made a desperate defence for several hours on some rocky ground. Finally the French position was turned and the British continued their advance. On the 21st another battle took place at Vimiera, where the French attacked from a lofty wooded ridge resting on the sea. The attack was supported by a large body of cavalry, and was made with the usual impetuosity of French troops. It was received by Ferguson's brigade with great steadiness, consisting of the 36th, 40th and 71st Regiments. These regiments levelled their bayonets and, rushing forward with irresistible dash, drove the French line headlong down the steep, with the loss of all its artillery. So complete was the execution by the bayonet that the whole first line of one French regiment went down like grass, and three hundred men lay dead as they stood in their ranks. In this fine charge, the 40th was supported by the 82nd Regiment. So thorough was the work of these troops that the British reserve was not brought up, and when Sir Arthur Wellesley was asked if it should be called upon, he replied, "No, sir. I am not pressed and I want no assistance. I am beating the French and am able to beat them wherever I find them."

The French broke off the fight about two o'clock and fell back on Lisbon. The 40th was thanked in general orders for its fine work, and the 82nd was particularly mentioned in despatches for its gallantry. Beaten in two successive battles, the French general asked for an armistice and the French army was transported back to France. And thus within a week both the 40th and 82nd had added to the honours on their colours the two famous names of "Roliça" and "Vimiera."

The next honour to be secured was gained by the 82nd—the famous one of "Corunna." A small force under Sir John Moore

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entered Spain and concentrated at Salamanca and pushed further to the north-east. Napoleon himself was, however, now in Spain, and he made strenuous efforts to cut off Moore's retreat to Portugal. The latter was forced to retire hurriedly to Corunna, where he turned at bay and defeated the French on January 16th, 1809. In this battle Sir John Moore met a soldier's death. His army was, however, safely embarked and the 82nd landed at Portsmouth. Within a few months it was detailed as part of an expedition to destroy Antwerp—now, it will be remembered, in French hands—as well as the docks and shipping of the place. The expedition was a formidable one and was the largest which had ever put to sea for hundreds of years up to that time. Two hundred ships of war, innumerable transports and 40,000 troops composed it. But it was badly organized and badly commanded. Antwerp lay at the mercy of the British, but invaluable time was wasted in besieging and capturing Flushing, with the result that the French were able to pour troops into Antwerp and put it into a strong state of defence. The British, moreover, began to suffer terribly from the prevailing fever in Walcheren. Half the force was soon in hospital. Seven thousand men died. In these circumstances the expedition was recalled, and in September the 82nd found itself back at Lewes, where we shall leave it for the moment and follow the fortunes of the 40th in the Peninsula.

While the 82nd was suffering amidst the swamps of Walcheren, the 40th had been engaged in one of the great battles of the Peninsula—that of Talavera. Having cleared the French out of Northern Portugal, Sir Arthur Wellesley on June 27th, 1809, crossed the Spanish frontier, heading for Madrid. A Spanish army under Cuesta was to co-operate, bringing the number of the allies to over 50,000. Near Talavera the advanced guard of the latter was heavily attacked by the French and driven back on to the main position, for the possession of which a bitterly-contested fight was waged on July 27th. The allies held their own, but early on the next day the French furiously renewed the attack. Attack and counter-attack followed in quick succession, and at one time the British centre was disorganized until the situation was restored by the famous advance of the 48th, now the 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment. The casualties were severe, the French, out of 46,000 on the field, losing over 7,000 of all ranks. Failure in this battle compelled the French to fall back towards Madrid. As for the British, the failure of the Spanish to furnish supplies compelled a retirement to the Portuguese frontier. It should be mentioned that in this battle of Talavera the 82nd was also represented by two officers and

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sixty-four other ranks, who had been left behind sick in Portugal and were then formed into a battalion of such detachments. Thus was " Talavera " won.

It was nearly three years before the 40th gained another Peninsular honour. But it must not be thought that the Regiment saw no fighting in that period. Far from it: the 40th took part in several brisk engagements, for which no formal honour was awarded, and—more unfortunately still—it shared in more than one great battle, only to miss the honour by the very strict system of allotting these distinctions for the Peninsular War. Busaco, September 27th, 1810, is a case in point. After Talavera, Lord Wellington—as Sir Arthur Wellesley had now become—saw that no reliance could be placed on the co-operation of the Spanish armies in the field. He was forced to retire into Portugal, and at Busaco turned at bay on the summit of a lofty ridge. The position was furiously assaulted by the pursuing French with overwhelming masses, but they were beaten off by the firmness of the British and Portuguese. The 40th was engaged in this battle, but as the division to which it belonged happened to be on the left of the line, and as the French attacks were directed against the right and the centre, the regiments on the left flank were unrewarded. After the battle, the British fell back to the lines of Torres Vedras covering Lisbon, accompanied by crowds of old men, women and children, panic-stricken and flying for safety. It was a Retreat from Mons over a century before that great incident actually took place.

Early in 1812, the situation had improved, for Napoleon had a vast Russian campaign on his hands. Wellington was eager for another thrust into Spain, and for this it was necessary to seize the two great frontier fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz. The former was stormed and captured on January 19th, but again Fortune was unkind to the 40th. The Regiment took part in the siege and captured a tactical point of great importance, but did not share in the actual assault, and for this technical reason was not awarded the battle honour. Badajoz is, however, a different story, and one that deserves a longer mention.

Although the fortress was stormed in April, 1812, this was not the first acquaintance of the 40th Regiment with it. In the previous May it had been besieged, and in a sortie by the garrison the 40th had suffered well over 300 casualties, including nine officers, of whom one was killed. The siege had to be raised owing to the approach of a French army which was brought to battle at Albuhera and defeated in one of the bloodiest engagements in the Peninsula.

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In the following year, however, it was possible to continue the siege undisturbed. By April 6th, three breaches had been effected in the walls, and at 9 p.m. the regiments detailed for the assault formed in close column of companies, with the grenadiers of each regiment leading their own columns, provided with ladders and bags filled with grass with which to facilitate the descent into the ditch. The 4th and Light Divisions were side by side. The storming parties approached the breaches in silence, but no sooner had they descended into the ditch than the foremost were blown to atoms by the explosion of shells and powder barrels placed there for the purpose. The tumult was such as if the very earth had been rent asunder and its central fires were bursting upwards uncontrolled. Many others were drowned by falling into the flooded part of the ditch. But the survivors pressed on over the mutilated bodies of their comrades and, though assailed on every side by a plunging cross-fire, forced their way to the summit of the breach. In the stirring words of Napier, " the enemy's shouts were loud and terrible, and the bursting of shells and grenades, the roaring of guns from the flanks, answered by the iron howitzers from the battery of the parallel, the heavy roll and horrid explosion of the powder barrels, the whizzing flight of the blazing splinters, the loud exhortations of the officers and the continual clatter of the muskets made a maddening din."

As they toiled to the top over the bodies of the slain, there were heard from the officers of the 40th cries of " Come on, my lads," but as officers and men struggled up it was but to find across the breach a great *chevaux-de-frise* formed of ponderous beams studded with sword blades, and a deep trench from which the garrison opened a deadly fire upon the Regiment. Heroic attempts were made to remove this fearful obstacle, but in vain, and after two hours of slaughter, in which over 2,000 had fallen, the attack on the breach was called off. An attempt elsewhere to escalade the castle had met with more success, although in the first effort many had been hurled from the ladders and impaled on the bayonets of their comrades below. The breaches were now taken in reverse, and the fortress was won. Nearly 4,000 prisoners, 170 heavy guns, and immense stores fell into the hands of the victors. The British had lost 5,000 in killed and wounded, of whom no less than 3,500 were struck down in the assault. All five generals were wounded, four of them seriously. The 40th had 5 officers killed and 14 wounded, including the commanding officer. In other ranks, 85 were killed and some 200 wounded. When the extent of the losses was made known to Wellington, iron soldier though he was he

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gave way to a passionate outburst of grief for the gallant dead. There is no finer battle honour than that of Badajoz, but this glorious victory was stained by the barbarous excesses committed within the city by the exulting troops in their hour of triumph.

A few months later Wellington had to deal with a counter-stroke by the French general, Marmont, which led to the famous Battle of Salamanca. In its initial stages, a battalion of the 27th and one of the 40th were called upon to descend from their position to attack the French as they crossed a ravine. This was done, and the advance of the enemy was checked. A large body of the enemy —four to five thousand infantry—was now discerned in close column of battalions. The opportunity was at once seized by our men, who charged home with the bayonet and, routing the French with great slaughter, forced them to retreat to their former position. In this spirited affair the 40th captured a handsome silver-mounted drum-major's staff belonging to the 65th Infantry Regiment of the French Army. Curiously enough, it replaced another staff which had also been taken from the French when the 40th was serving under the Duke of York in Holland.

The battle proper took place on July 22nd. A feature of it was a race between the two armies for two conical-shaped hills known as the Arapiles. Honours were easy: the French gained one and the British the other. The latter was occupied by the 27th and 40th. While the French were endeavouring to outflank the British, Wellington saw that the moment to attack had come. The 40th now descended from its hill to support the left of the 4th Division. In its advance a gap was left between the Regiment and the hill, into which the French began to pour in troops. But the 40th went for them with the bayonet and drove them off in confusion. The battle was a brilliant and glorious victory for the British. The French were routed and fled, and the victors moved on to Madrid, which was occupied. But again the unwearied French were soon in movement, and gradually Wellington was forced back once more to the Portuguese frontier.

Three times in three years the British Army had retreated. Yet the soldiers had never suffered defeat and " the glories of twelve victories played about their bayonets "—victories of which six are among the Peninsular honours borne to-day on the colours of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers. The reason for these retirements is to be found in the great numerical superiority of the French and the indifferent support rendered us by our Spanish allies. The year 1813 tells a different tale. Reinforcements had come from England. Fresh Portuguese battalions had been raised.

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AN OFFICER AND PRIVATE, 82ND FOOT, 1815.

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The Spaniards began to pull their weight. The French, on the other hand, were on the downgrade. Napoleon had been worsted in Russia, and many of his best troops had been withdrawn from Spain. And so, when Wellington began his march on May 22nd, 1813, and crossed the stream which divides Portugal from Spain, it was with well-founded confidence that he called out, "Good-bye to Portugal." There was to be no retreat this time.

Both the 40th and the 82nd had the honour of participating in this great Spanish campaign of 1813, for the latter regiment had landed in the south of Spain at the end of 1810, and after sharing —to the extent of its flank companies—in the Battle of Barrosa and taking part in the gallant defence of Tarifa, had been moved up into Portugal. The march north-eastward through Spain in 1813 was an ever memorable one. The hardships were severe; the difficulties great; but the French were kept continuously on the run until they took up a strong position and prepared to make a stand at Vittoria, near the French frontier. In the glorious action which ensued on the 21st, the French army was overwhelmed and driven out of Spain, losing all its baggage, equipages, stores, artillery, papers and treasure. Over a hundred and fifty guns and four hundred and fifteen wagons of ammunition were captured. Of the two regiments which now form The Prince of Wales's Volunteers, the 40th was in the second line of its division and was concerned chiefly in the pursuit of a defeated enemy. The brigade in which was the 82nd was, however, smartly attacked by the French, and for its gallant conduct was one of those particularly mentioned by Lord Wellington in his despatch.

But before France was entered, there was hard fighting in the Pyrenees—fighting which brought the eighth Peninsular honour to the Regiment, and one shared by both the 40th and 82nd. In July, 1813, was a day to be for ever remembered in the former regiment. The 40th, with about 400 Spaniards, were in occupation of a hill in front of the British position and within musket-shot of the French. Early in the day, the whole of the French army was observed in motion. Two columns, each 2,500 strong, advanced against the hill. Dismayed at the sight, the Spaniards retired in haste, leaving the 40th, about 420 strong, to bear the brunt of the attack. When the first French column had gained the brow of the hill, the order to charge was given. With a deafening cheer the 40th dashed forward with the bayonet, and swept the enemy column down the descent. The second French column soon appeared, and advanced up the hill with great steadiness and spirit. Again the 40th charged with the bayonet, and with the same result.

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And even when the first French column re-formed and advanced a second time, the 40th charged a third time through fire and smoke, and bayoneted all who stood in their way. No effort could make the French face those terrible bayonets again. French officers were seen trying to animate their men; the French colours were carried to the front; the French drums beat the advance. But all to no purpose. At length, heart and strength failed altogether, and the French sullenly receded from a position which the bravery of one glorious regiment had made impregnable. The words are from Maxwell's "Life of Wellington." The glorious regiment was the 40th. Lord Wellington himself had witnessed the action, and sent the Prince of Orange to congratulate the 40th on its heroism.

And in this fighting in the Pyrenees, fighting as desperate as any in the war, the 82nd nobly bore its share. In the action at Moya, Major William Fitzgerald, of the 82nd, was detached with a small force composed of part of his own regiment and some of the 71st, to hold a rocky ridge. It was strenuously attacked by the French and as strenuously defended. The divisional commander reported that he "could not too warmly praise the conduct of Major Fitzgerald and his brave detachment. They maintained the position to the last, and were compelled from want of ammunition to impede the enemy's occupation of the rock by hurling stones at them. I feel it my duty to recommend to your attention and favourable report to the Commander of the Forces the conduct and spirit of Colonel Grant and his brave corps, the 82nd Regiment." Lord Wellington himself in his despatch particularly noted the 82nd, and brought to mention the fact that it had charged with the bayonet.

The invasion of France soon followed, and the Battles of the Nivelle, Nive, Orthes and Toulouse yielded three more honours for the colours. In the passage of the Nivelle, the 40th suffered severely, having some 130 casualties, including nine officers, among whom were the commanding officer and adjutant; and in the same battle the 82nd took part, driving the enemy from some heights, bearing the brunt of the affair after the two other regiments of the brigade, both very weak, had been checked. At the Nive it happened that neither of the regiments was seriously engaged. The Battle of Orthes was the last occasion on which the 82nd met the enemy in France, for the 7th Division immediately afterwards took possession of Bordeaux. At the Battle of Toulouse on Easter Sunday, April 10th, 1814, the 40th, which had taken part in the first, now shared in the last, battle of the Peninsular War. It was

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a severe engagement, and the oldest soldier in the 40th—either officer or private—declared that never on any previous occasion had he been exposed to such tremendous artillery fire. The loss to the Regiment was 109 officers and men. A pursuit followed, which was suspended on the news of Napoleon's abdication. Peace was signed on May 30th, 1814. The great Peninsular War was at an end; and the 40th shared with but two other regiments of the British Army the honour of having served continuously from the landing at Mondego Bay in 1808 till the last shot was fired six years later at Toulouse.

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CHAPTER VII.

The War in America—The 82nd at Niagara—The 40th Return to Europe and are Present at Waterloo.

There was, however, no rest for either the 40th or 82nd Regiments. In another hemisphere another war had been in progress for the last two years. In 1812 the Americans had considered themselves aggrieved by the right of search exercised on their vessels, and had declared war on England. It was a bitterly-contested war, with odd variations of fortune, but by the summer of 1814 the balance of advantage was with the British. Most of the fighting was in the neighbourhood of the Great Lakes, where the River Niagara forms the boundary between Canada and the United States. The 82nd missed the sanguinary battle of Lundy's Lane, but arrived to take part in operations against Fort Erie, where on August 25th the Regiment was for the first time engaged in America, in repelling a sortie. Three weeks later the Americans made a more strenuous effort and even succeeded in taking a British battery. But the 82nd had learnt its bayonet-work against Napoleon's troops, and knew how to act. A bayonet charge carried out by seven companies of the 82nd and three companies of the 6th led to the recovery of the battery, and contributed materially to the repulse of the enemy. In his despatch the British commander bore special testimony to the dash and gallantry of the 82nd. As for the 40th, it was sent to the south, where New Orleans was the objective, but fortunately the Regiment missed the battle there, which ended in disaster for the British—doubly fortunate, for, as a matter of fact, the battle was an unnecessary one, peace having already been signed.

And now a great event had occurred in Europe. Napoleon had escaped from Elba and raised new armies. All Europe hurriedly got in motion, and a small British army, under the Duke of Wellington, and a Prussian army under Blücher took post in Belgium. So urgent was the need for troops, that the 40th did not disembark in England, but was hurried to the seat of war. Posted first at Ghent, it was hurriedly summoned to Waterloo, where it arrived just in time for the great battle of June 18th, 1815, after a forced march of fifty-one miles.

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WATERLOO, 1815.

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For the first four hours of the battle, the 40th was in reserve, but subjected to an artillery fire heavier than any it had yet experienced. Three companies were almost cut to pieces, and twice more than a score of men went down to a single shot. About three in the afternoon the Regiment was brought into the front line, and all through the afternoon it successively formed line and square to withstand in one case the fierce artillery fire of the enemy and the infantry attacks which followed, and in the other case to resist the charges of the French cavalry. The French fought with desperate resolution and bravery, and whenever there was an intermission from the fire of their artillery the 40th would fling itself hastily into square and find itself almost at once surrounded by hordes of horsemen slashing and cutting at the front or kneeling ranks. Charge after charge was made by the French cavalry but with scanty success. "Keep your ground, my men," was the cry of the officers, and not a single inch of ground did the 40th yield throughout the day. Several officers and fourteen sergeants were killed and wounded round the colours, and the colours themselves were almost cut to pieces. Towards the end of the afternoon the Regiment was almost exhausted with fatigue, and so few men were left that there were scarcely enough to form square. It was then that the French made a last supreme effort with their cavalry. Few as they were, the men of the 40th formed square and awaited the charge, pouring volley after volley into the French horsemen and driving them back once again. Word now flew round that the long-expected Prussians were at last arriving, and as the sun was setting they made their appearance on the left flank. The battle was won. The whole British line was ordered to advance. Wellington himself gave the order to the 40th, and with loud cheers the Regiment moved forward with fresh vigour. The French broke and fled, utterly defeated and a demoralized mob. The Prussians took up the pursuit, and the 40th laid down that night partakers of one of the greatest victories in the history of the world.

Out of a strength of about 860 of all ranks, the Regiment had 221 casualties, and among the dead was the commanding officer, Major Heyland. After the battle, the 40th marched with the rest of the army to Paris and formed part of the British Army of Occupation. The 82nd did not leave Canada until after the Battle of Waterloo; it landed at Ostend on August 9th, and marched thence to join the Duke of Wellington in Paris.

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE 40TH IN AFGHANISTAN—"MAHARAJPORE"—THE 82ND IN THE CRIMEA AND THE INDIAN MUTINY—THE 40TH IN THE MAORI WAR—ARMY REORGANIZATION—THE 40TH AND 82ND UNITED TO FORM THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS (SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT).

WITH the final abdication of Napoleon, and his transportation to St. Helena, a long period of peace was ushered in. The 40th did a spell of eight years' soldiering in the United Kingdom and then, during 1823 and 1824, it proceeded in small detachments as guards on convict ships to New South Wales. In that colony and also during a spell of service in Van Dieman's Land—now Tasmania—the 40th earned golden opinions from the generals under whom it served, and performed excellent work both in maintaining order in the penal settlements and in frontier work against the aborigines. In 1828 the Regiment proceeded to India, for the first time.

During this tour the 40th was once more called upon to prove its worth and to gain further honours for its colours. In 1838 the Indian Government was compelled to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan, and an army of 21,000 men was sent into that country and on the conclusion of the campaign part of it remained in possession of the cities of Kabul and Kandahar. The 40th Regiment reached the latter place in October, 1841, and formed part of the garrison during the winter against a hostile body numbering many thousands of fanatics. Meanwhile an insurrection had broken out at Kabul, and the force there was obliged to sign a convention to evacuate the country. Accordingly, 4,500 soldiers (of whom 700 were Europeans) and 12,000 followers marched out towards India, only to be massacred *en route*. The situation of the garrison at Kandahar was now critical in the extreme, but the commandant, General Nott, sternly held his own. An avenging army was quickly dispatched from India, but it was not until August, 1842, that it penetrated into Afghanistan, heading for Kabul. About the same time the evacuation of Kandahar had been decided upon, the route being via Ghuznee and Kabul. The weather conditions were very trying—so much so that, when the thermometer fell to 95 degrees in the shade, there is a grateful record of the fact as "much cooler." On September 4th, Ghuznee

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was in sight, and within a few days it was evacuated by the Afghans with comparatively little loss to the attackers, the 40th suffering but trifling loss. On the 17th Kabul was reached and junction was made with the avenging army, which had arrived two days earlier. A long and arduous march of over 300 miles had been successfully accomplished; the armies of Pollock and Nott met in triumph at Kabul; and the British flag waved in triumph over the city. The citadel and bazaar of Kabul were destroyed, and the army finally evacuated Afghanistan in December. The battle honours " Candahar, 1842," and " Ghuznee, 1842," and " Cabool, 1842," testify to the services of the 40th in the campaign.

A year later came another honour. The native army in the state of Gwalior had got out of control and was a menace to India. A force of some 12,000 of all arms was sent to deal with it under the commander-in-chief, Sir Hugh Gough, himself. Bad management and contempt for the enemy nearly brought about disaster, and it was only the irresistible gallantry of the troops which won the bloody victory of Maharajpore. The siege train of the British had been left behind, and the field pieces were silenced by the heavy guns of the enemy, who were 14,000 strong. It became necessary to launch the infantry against the enemy batteries, which were served with desperation so long as a gunner was left. The commanding officer of the 40th fell at the muzzle of the enemy guns, as did the officer who succeeded him. Of the British force, 1,000 fell killed or wounded out of 12,000 engaged. The casualties in the 40th amounted to 174. It has been handed down by the officers who were in the Regiment at that period that an offer was made by Sir Hugh Gough to ask that the Regiment might, in recognition of its services, be made a fusilier, light infantry or royal corps, but that the offer was declined.

In 1844 the 40th was ordered home after twenty-three years' foreign service, and in the following General Order of October 19th of that year are the words: " The 40th Regiment has marched over an immense portion of this mighty empire: from the mouth of the Indus throughout Afghanistan; crossing the Upper Indus, and traversing the Punjab, thence into the centre of British India, where it so mainly contributed to the gallant achievement of the memorable battle of Maharajapore, there displaying the indomitable courage of British soldiers throughout the world, and will terminate its services in the East by proceeding from the North-West Province to Calcutta."

After some six years in the United Kingdom the 40th embarked again for New South Wales, and one of its early

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services in this tour in Australia was to furnish a detachment of light cavalry to escort convoys of gold from Victoria, performing also most useful duty in preserving law and order amongst the gold diggers. Then, early in 1860, owing to the disturbed state of affairs in New Zealand, the two flank companies proceeded to that colony and were followed by the two companies on detachment in Tasmania, but, before describing the part played by the 40th in nearly four years' incessant campaigning in that country, it will be necessary to revert to the 82nd and to narrate how, since we last left it, two more battle honours had been won.

After peace had been restored by Waterloo, the 82nd had served in Mauritius, Gibraltar, Jamaica, and Canada. It was at home when war broke out between Russia and Turkey in 1853. In this war, England and France had decided to support Turkey so as to deny to Russia the possession of Constantinople. Russia had invaded Turkey, and had achieved some success, but, realizing the opposition against her, she withdrew. Theoretically, there was no call now for action by France and England, but, as their expeditionary forces were actually on the spot, it was suddenly resolved to send them to seize and destroy the Russian great naval base and arsenal in the Black Sea. The base was Sevastopol in the Crimea, and the struggle which ensued is known as the Crimean War.

It was not the good fortune of the 82nd to embark with the original expeditionary force, and it did not, therefore, share in the glories of the Alma, Balaklava and Inkerman—glories won at the expense of terrible sufferings in the winter of 1854-55 which are comparable only to those endured by the " Old Contemptibles " in 1914-15. However, the splendid defence put up by the Russian garrison brought it about that Sevastopol held out far longer than had been expected, and when the 82nd disembarked at Balaklava on September 4th, 1855, the fortress was still untaken. It fell four days later, and, as the 82nd was actually in position before it succumbed, the Regiment was permitted to bear " Sevastopol " on the colours.

The Crimean War concluded, the 82nd was brought home to England, but was very soon afterwards detailed to form part of an expedition, in conjunction with France, to enforce upon the Chinese Government respect for commercial treaties, and to demand from it satisfaction for ill-treatment of European merchants. While the 82nd was on the high seas, news had reached England of a far more serious state of things in India, and the Regiment was intercepted in Eastern waters and ordered to Calcutta.

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The situation in India at that time was peculiar, but must be clearly grasped if the Indian Mutiny is to be understood. Briefly speaking, there was dual control in Hindustan. The Governor-General was appointed by the Crown, but much of the administrative power was in the hands of what was practically a great trading corporation—the Honourable East India Company. There were some Queen's troops serving in India; the vast majority, however, of the military forces in the country belonged to the Company. The Company had a small force of Europeans, but the great bulk of its troops—cavalry, artillery and infantry—were natives commanded by British officers, who held their commissions from the Company, not from the Crown. These troops were divided into three armies—those of Bengal, Madras and Bombay. Several times mutinies had occurred, and in 1857 the Bengal Native Army had for years been in a chronic state of insubordination and unrest. Causes political, religious and military contributed to this state of disaffection, and the climax came when a new cartridge was introduced in 1857. In those days of muzzle-loaders, both hands were required in the operation of loading, and the base of the cartridge had to be bitten so as to free the powder which was then poured down the barrel and rammed home. It was rumoured that the grease on the cartridge was made of the fat of cows and pigs. The cow was the object of sacred veneration to the Hindu soldier; to the Mohammedan soldier the pig was abomination. To touch the cartridge with the mouth was frightful sacrilege to the one, and horrible defilement to the other. In the sullen state of discontent which was rife in the Bengal Army, the greased cartridge was like oil poured on a smouldering fire. The Great Mutiny broke out at Meerut on May 10th, 1857. The mutineers seized Delhi; and Lucknow and Cawnpore were besieged. In many other places the Sepoy troops deserted their allegiance, murdered the English, pillaged the cantonments, and moved about the country laden with booty and reeking with blood.

One wing of the Regiment formed part of the force of 4,000 troops under General Sir Colin Campbell, which effected the relief of Lucknow, besieged by 40,000 mutinous soldiers of the Bengal Army, while the other wing was engaged in the defence of Cawnpore against 25,000 rebels. Here Captain Farmer was specially promoted for conspicuous gallantry, having led a small part of his men to the capture of two of the enemy's guns, which were taken after severe fighting. He was the first man up to the guns, and had a hand-to-hand encounter with the native artillerymen, who lay down under their guns and awaited the assault, rising up and

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rushing at their assailants when within a short distance. The men of his company dispersed and bayoneted thirty-five of the enemy, and took the guns. The campaign was for the most part carried out under climatic conditions so terrible that hundreds died of sunstroke and heat apoplexy. The 82nd took a full share of the arduous service and constant fighting, being at the relief of Fatehghar, the action at Bareilly and the defence of Shahjehanpur, at which last-named place a wing of the Regiment under Colonel Hale was besieged in the jail, but gallantly held out against great odds, terrific heat, and want of water until a relief column arrived to its assistance. The Regiment was also engaged in the actions at Kangur and Bunkergaon, and in the operations in Oudh up to the final suppression of the revolt, continuing to serve in India until 1869, going then for a short time to Aden, and finally returning to England in 1870.

To return now to the 40th in New Zealand, the companies which had originally gone to that colony were involved in some hard fighting which ended in a reverse, and by the end of July the headquarters and remainder of the Regiment had arrived to avenge their fallen comrades. The difficulties which confronted the troops in this campaign were very great. The Maoris were a brave and hard-fighting enemy. The open country so called consisted of large uncultivated plains covered with thick fern rising to a height of six to eight feet. The bush was even more impassable, for this was a mixture of forest and jungle, quite impassable to the average European. The Maoris, with their local knowledge, were perfect skirmishers, availing themselves of any cover, creeping up unseen, and disappearing after firing a sharp volley. For their pitched battle they made great use of *pahs*, which were really strong points consisting of palisades, rifle pits, communication trenches, and dug-outs.

For nearly four years the 40th was part of the small force which gradually wore down the resistance of the brave and high-spirited Maoris. On March 18th, 1861, Colour-Sergeant John Lucas won the first Victoria Cross gained by the Regiment. During an attack upon a position held by the natives Lieutenant Ross fell wounded. Colour-Sergeant Lucas, under a very heavy fire from the enemy, who were not more than thirty yards distant, immediately ran to the officer's assistance, and sent one man with him to the rear, remaining himself in charge of arms belonging to killed and wounded until the arrival of supports. On another occasion a party of the Regiment crossed a rapid stream by a single-plank bridge in the face of a heavy enemy fire, then formed

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2ND V.B. SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT, 1885,
now the 5th Battalion Prince of Wales's Volunteers
(South Lancashire).

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up and carried out a spirited bayonet charge. After the conclusion of the campaign of 1860-61, fighting again broke out two years later, and, in recognition of the services of the Regiment in these Maori wars, "New Zealand" was subsequently added to the honours borne on the regimental colours.

A period of nearly forty years was now to elapse during which the 40th and 82nd had no opportunity of winning further distinction other than that of faithful and efficient service throughout the Empire. The period was, however, one which brought about vast changes in the Army as a whole, and in the organization particularly of regiments of the line. The startling victories won by German armies over those of France in 1870, and the formation of a powerful German Empire, caused a sensation in England and led to an immediate desire for Army reform. The first requisite was to build up a reserve, and, to secure this, long service was abolished and the term of engagement of an enlisted soldier was fixed at twelve years, of which only a portion was to be passed with the colours, and the remainder with the reserve. Also the system by which officers in the cavalry and infantry purchased their commissions and steps of promotion was now ended.

A more far-reaching effect was brought about by what was known as the "Linked Battalion System," the introduction of which was necessitated by the amount of foreign service, both in peace and war, peculiar to the British Army. It had long been evident that when any regiment consisting of a single battalion was serving abroad it had to have a depot in the United Kingdom. Four-company depots had been tried, and these gave considerable satisfaction, but were abolished because they were too large and too expensive for mere depot purposes. On the other hand, were the depot to be increased to the size of a battalion, it would be useful not only for training, but as a fighting unit itself, and regimental *esprit de corps* would be stimulated. The experience of the Crimean War showed up in strong relief the inefficiency of mere depots as a reserve for units in the field, and indeed by 1857 the advantages of a double-battalion system were so obvious that second battalions were added to the first twenty-five regiments of the line, and an additional battalion to both the 60th Rifles and the Rifle Brigade.

It was now decided to complete the reorganization of the remaining single-battalion regiments by transforming them into regiments of two "links." Normally, one regiment would be abroad and one at home, the latter acting as a feeder to the former

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to supply its casualties in officers and men. Recruits were to be enlisted for the two "links" and would be available for service in either of them.

In the year 1881 it was decided to replace this linking of regiments by a definite union of the pairs so formed and by the abolition of numbers in favour of Territorial (usually "county") titles. It must be remembered that, when, by this scheme, what were called "Territorial" regiments were formed, these regiments were, and always had been, *regulars*. By a later scheme of Army reform the title was given to volunteer, or *non-regular*, units, and unless this fact is remembered considerable confusion will exist in the mind of the reader of the reorganization scheme of 1881. Under this scheme, the 40th and the 82nd were brought together as the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), and the happy associations of past campaigns were thus renewed and made permanent. At the same time, the 4th Royal Lancashire Militia became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Regiment, while, in common with all English regiments of the newly-organized Army, the facings were to be white; the depot was to be stationed at Warrington; all honours, etc., hitherto borne by either of the line battalions of the Regiment were in future to be common to both. Another important feature of this scheme of Army Reform was that the Volunteer battalions of the country were affiliated to the various line regiments. These volunteers had been mainly raised in 1859 and 1860 owing to a scare of possible war with France, and in 1871 had passed from the control of the lords-lieutenant of counties to the War Office. Two Volunteer battalions in this way became connected with The Prince of Wales's Volunteers, but the connexion was not so intimate as that between the Regiment and its Territorial battalions, which, as will be seen, eventually replaced the Volunteers.

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CHAPTER IX.

The South African War—Further Army Reorganization.

The end of the nineteenth century was marked by trouble in South Africa. The discovery of gold in the Transvaal had led to the influx of tens of thousands of settlers, and the large city of Johannesburg was almost a foreign settlement amidst the Boer population of the Transvaal. The Transvaal itself was a poor state, while the city of Johannesburg was extremely wealthy, and the Boer Government endeavoured to secure a revenue by heavy taxes on the settlers while withholding political rights. Continued friction was the result which culminated in the Transvaal declaring war on Great Britain, the former being aided by the Orange Free State, a neighbouring state of the same race of Boers who were the descendants of Dutch, with a sprinkling of French, settlers from the Cape.

An expeditionary force was dispatched to South Africa in the autumn of 1899, and on November 30th the 1st Battalion of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers, as the 40th must henceforth be called, was sent to South Africa under the command of Lieut.-Colonel W. McCarthy O'Leary, and landed at Durban on Christmas Eve. From here it was at once moved up country to join the force detailed under General Buller for the relief of Ladysmith. At a later date, contingents from the 2nd Battalion also arrived in the theatre of war, while active service companies of the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions of the Regiment were also sent out to South Africa, and all gave devoted service, adding greatly to the good name of the Regiment.

The Boers had no regular army, but they were a nation of mounted riflemen with the mobility of such, and they were also the pioneers of taking heavy guns, drawn by oxen, into the field. Before the expeditionary force arrived from England the Boers were in great superiority of numbers over our scattered garrison, but, unfortunately for themselves, they divided their forces, aiming simultaneously at Ladysmith in Natal, and, on the other side of the theatre of war, at Mafeking and Kimberley. The British garrison was besieged in Ladysmith and efforts were at once made to relieve it, but the difficulties were great for the River Tugela formed an

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admirable line of resistance for the Boers. The fighting which ensued was very severe and at first resulted in the repulse of the British, but the indomitable bravery of the troops eventually turned the scale. In one of the actions, which nearly but not quite achieved success, namely that of Spion Kop, the Battalion suffered its full share of the heavy casualties which were there sustained, but it fought with undiminished spirit in all the subsequent actions which opened the way to Ladysmith. Specially distinguished was the Battalion in the actions of the Tugela Heights. At Pieter's Hill, which was fought on February 27th, 1900, the enemy's position consisted mainly of three hills. To the 11th (Lancashire) Brigade was given the central elevation known as Railway Hill. The attack against it was carried out with the utmost resolution and dash, the summit being carried by the 40th. Lieutenant-Colonel McCarthy O'Leary led the charge, calling out "Remember, men, the eyes of Lancashire are watching you," to fall dead in the moment of victory under the fierce fire directed on the battalion. The splendid courage displayed by all ranks in that decisive attack elicited congratulatory messages from Generals Buller and Warren. The former, in a cablegram to the War Office, wrote how "the enemy's main position was magnificently carried by the South Lancashire Regiment about sunset."

The relief of Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking, and the arrival of large reinforcements from home, enabled the British to seize and occupy Bloemfontein and Pretoria, the capitals of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal respectively. But contrary to general expectations, the Boers, who were a stubborn and gallant foe, refused to give in, and there followed two more years of long-drawn-out guerilla warfare.

The Battalion continued to serve in all the subsequent operations that marked the course of the campaign, enduring many hardships and no little privation during the many long forced marches needed to follow up a very mobile and elusive enemy.

In order to cope with the mobility of the Boers, mounted infantry were employed in large numbers and a specially fine feat of arms was performed by the Mounted Infantry detachment of the Regiment during the defence of Itala, a small post on the Zululand border, when attacked by overwhelming numbers of the enemy. It was due to the stern, unconquerable spirit of the small band of defenders that the Boers were in the end repulsed with heavy loss, the spirit of all ranks being strikingly exemplified in the gallant manner in which Lieutenant H. R. Kane of the Regiment met his death while commanding an advanced and isolated post. When

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he and his gallant comrades were no longer able to stem the rush of the enemy, he still held on, and was killed while shouting to his men, " No surrender." Every man of the post was either killed or wounded.

No fewer than eleven non-commissioned officers and men of the Battalion received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallant service during the war, and the Regiment added two more battle honours to those already embroidered upon the Colours, namely, those of " Relief of Ladysmith " and " South Africa, 1899-1902."

At the end of the year 1899, the Auxiliary Forces had been invited to offer their services, and the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment was one of the first Militia battalions to volunteer. It reached Cape Town on February 13th, 1900. From this date to April, the 3rd Battalion served in the operations carried out south of the Orange River, while from May to November it operated in the Orange River Colony under different commanders. During this period a Mounted Infantry company was furnished by the Battalion, and gave a very good account of itself during the remainder of the time that the 3rd Battalion served in the country. The head-quarter companies were employed during many months in guarding the important railway junction at Springfontein. Detachments were provided for various places, while numerous posts were established on the lines of railway. The Boers made many unsuccessful attacks on the Battalion posts, and near Springfontein the railway line was several times destroyed; at one time, towards the end of 1900, explosions occurred on nineteen nights out of twenty-four. In 1901 the Battalion was again employed in operations in the Orange River Colony.

In June of this year, fresh Militia battalions came out from England in relief of those which had been serving in South Africa since the early days of the war, and the 3rd Battalion, having been directed to return home, embarked at Cape Town and arrived at Southampton on August 3rd, receiving a very enthusiastic reception on finally reaching Warrington.

During the year 1908 a new scheme of Army reorganization, devised by Mr. Haldane, then Secretary of State for War, was put into execution; under this scheme, the Militia was abolished, its place being taken by the Special Reserve, while the Volunteer battalions became the Territorial Force. The Militia and Volunteer battalions of the Regiment were renamed and renumbered, the 3rd (Militia) Battalion becoming the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, while the Volunteer Battalions became the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Regiment.

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Such, briefly, is the history of the Regiment from its formation up to the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the Great World War of 1914-1919, during which the Regiment, augmented by fifteen new battalions, added more pages to its already glorious history.

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PIETER'S HILL, FEBRUARY 27TH, 1900.

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Part II.—The Great War.

1914.

For many years prior to 1914 Europe had been in a state of unrest. The Balkan States had for long been a danger-spot and had caused continual friction between Russia and Austria. The charge was fired in Bosnia, where the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated on June 28th, 1914. Austria declared that the murder had been instigated by Serbia, and sent an ultimatum. Russia was the protector of Serbia, France was the ally of Russia, and England was friendly to the two latter Powers. On the other hand, Germany was the ally of Austria. The situation developed quickly and got out of hand, so that by August 5th England, France, Russia, Serbia, and Belgium were at war with Germany and Austria.

The disposition of the battalions of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers at this crisis was that the 1st Battalion was in India and the 2nd Battalion was in England, as was, of course, the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion and the 4th and 5th Territorial Battalions. Mobilization began in the United Kingdom on August 5th, and soon afterwards an appeal was made by Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, for 500,000 recruits to form New Armies. The appeal was responded to with enthusiasm, and nowhere more than in Lancashire. The 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th "Service" Battalions, as they were called, quickly came into being, and began equipping and training.

England's initial assistance to France consisted of an Expeditionary Force of six divisions and a cavalry division which came up on the left of the French, on the Franco-Belgian frontier on August 22nd. The 2nd Battalion was one of the units of the 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Division, of this force, which came to be known for all time as the "Old Contemptibles" from a sneering allusion of the German Emperor to "the contemptible little British Army." The German right wing was pressing through Belgium, and came down on the Franco-British right in the vicinity of Mons on August 23rd, 1914. In spite of heroic resistance, the Allies were driven back, and three days later the 2nd Battalion took part in the fierce battle of Le Cateau, where half the British Expeditionary Force had to repel an overwhelming German attack. Further

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retirement was necessary, but in the early days of September the Allies halted on the long line from Paris to Verdun and gave battle to the hitherto triumphant Germans. This was the Battle of the Marne, one of the decisive battles of the world, for the German plan of winning a great victory in France, and then turning to help Austria deal with Russia, was definitely upset.

The Germans fell back behind the Aisne followed up by the French and British, who crossed the river in the Battle of the Aisne. The Germans had entrenched themselves, and a deadlock set in, although both sides kept extending their outer flank towards the sea. It was during this reciprocal movement that the British Army was moved by rail from the Aisne to the left flank between Ypres and the coast. Here intense fighting took place for over a month, beginning on October 12th. Again and again the Germans made desperate efforts to reach the Channel ports, only to be frustrated by the superb resistance of the Belgian, British and French forces.

In this 1914 campaign, for which the " 1914 " Star was awarded, the 2nd Battalion had suffered very heavily. In the earlier operations, the battalion lost 15 officers and over 600 other ranks. On October 21st, the casualties were 7 officers and 300 non-commissioned officers and men. When withdrawn from the Battle of Ypres, the battalion—in spite of reinforcements received—had shrunk to just 200, of which number only two were officers. It was during this historic half-year that the Military Cross was instituted, and the first recipient in the battalion was Lieutenant Fulcher, to whom the decoration was posthumously awarded for gallantry in attempting to save a machine gun on August 24th. For his heroism on the same day in working another machine gun till the last, Sergeant W. Harrison received the first Distinguished Conduct Medal won by the 2nd Battalion in the war.

1915.

THE conditions of the Ypres Salient in the winter of 1914-1915 were of great hardship. The weather was extraordinarily wet. Mud and water were everywhere, and the British troops were occupying the lower ground in contradistinction to the Germans, who everywhere had the advantage of higher position and drier ground. The so-called trenches of the British were in a constant state of subsidence, and the unfortunate soldiers often stood for most of their tour of duty in water higher than their knees. Further, there was on our side a woeful deficiency of shells, with

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SERGEANT W. HARRISON, 2ND BATTALION,
Winning the D.C.M. near Mons, August 24th, 1914.

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the result that our guns were cut down to an absurdly small daily amount of ammunition, whereas the Germans who overlooked our lines were much better off in this respect, and were able to inflict very severe losses on our troops, who were without the means of making an adequate reply.

When the new year dawned, the war had changed in two important aspects. To begin with, on the Western Front—as France now came to be called—mobile warfare was a thing of the past, and trench warfare had come to stay—and to stay for a very long time. This change was brought about by the fact that the opposing armies both reached from the North Sea to the frontier of Switzerland. There were therefore no flanks which could be "turned": war of manœuvre was impossible, and what was really siege warfare had begun. The other new feature was that Turkey had come into the war against us. This opened up a possibility of a maritime expedition against Constantinople. The Gallipoli campaign was the result, and in it, as we shall see, one of the battalions of the Regiment played a distinguished part.

The 2nd Battalion had passed the winter in most uncomfortable conditions in the neighbourhood of Kemmel, and here it was joined in February by the 1st/4th Battalion, which had been posted to the same brigade. This, the senior Territorial battalion of the Regiment, had mobilized at Warrington on the evening of August 4th, 1914, with a strength of 718 of all ranks. The great majority had volunteered for service in the field, the services of the battalion had been accepted, and within a few weeks the battalion consisted of 31 officers and 1,342 other ranks. Very soon it was destined to be in the zone of a great battle. The deficiency in shells having been made good, Sir John French, the British commander-in-chief, determined to make an effort to batter a way through the German lines at Neuve Chapelle in March. After a bombardment on a scale never hitherto approached in war, some success was gained, the 1st/4th Battalion being in Army Reserve.

A continuance of the offensive by the Allies led to a counter-effort by the Germans in the neighbourhood of Ypres in the latter half of April—the Second Battle of Ypres, as it is called by us. In the operations which went to make up this battle, the 2nd Battalion, the 1st/4th and the 1st/5th were engaged. It was in this battle that the Germans on April 22nd caused an innovation in war by the use of poison gas. The 2nd Battalion had been attached to the 13th Brigade in operations round Hill 60, and suffered many casualties from this new feature of war. The 1st/5th came into the battle during the night of May 2nd, and also suffered

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much from gas as well as having its trenches considerably demolished by German shell fire on the 5th. This was the baptism of fire of the battalion, which continued to suffer heavily until the line was evacuated towards the end of May.

For the remainder of the year, the above battalions, while not taking part in any of the major offensives, bore their share of the incessant trench warfare. In August, the 1st/4th became a pioneer battalion, and was transferred to the 55th Division. During the year, the "New Army" or "Service" battalions began to take their part with their respective divisions. Of those coming to the Western Front, the 7th arrived in August and took part, though in a defensive rôle, in the great British offensive at Loos, which may be said to mark the entry of the New Army divisions into the war. The 8th Battalion came out in September as part of the 75th Brigade of the 25th Division, going into the line in the famous "Plug Street" near Armentières. The 2nd Battalion was posted to this brigade in December, and thus began a happy connection between the 2nd and 8th which lasted till the latter was disbanded in 1918. In November also the 11th Battalion—a pioneer battalion—came out and was attached to the 4th Division at Mailly Maillet.

We pass now to the Gallipoli campaign, in which the 6th Battalion was engaged. It left England in June, and landed on the Helles front, where it was transferred to Anzac Cove, where it co-operated on the right flank of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. With the 6th Gurkhas, the battalion reached the top of Sari Bair, and it seemed as if victory was in our grasp, but owing to the non-arrival of reinforcements and the difficult nature of the country a retirement was inevitable. The work of the 6th Battalion called forth an expression of the highest praise from the divisional commander. The Battalion then returned to Suvla Bay, where it held a sector of the front, bearing with stubborn cheerfulness the horrors of the weather of November. Soaked to the skin by torrential rain, the men were actually frozen in their clothes by the subsequent blizzard.

Yet another theatre of war now comes into the picture. In order to provide assistance for the Serbian Army which was retreating before the Austrians, it was determined to send a Franco-British force to Salonika. In this force was included the 22nd Division, of which the 9th Battalion was one of the units. Accordingly, the battalion, which had arrived in France in September, embarked at Marseilles for Macedonia, on which front it served till the end of the war.

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1916.

On the Western Front in 1916, there was fighting of the most intense character. Early in the year the Germans made a tremendous effort to break the French line at Verdun, and in order to take the pressure off our allies, the British engaged in a great series of battles in the Somme area, beginning on July 1st and continuing until winter put a stop to further operations in November. Troops were brought from all parts of the line and, fighting with their respective divisions, the 2nd, 1st/4th, 1st/5th, 7th, 8th and 11th Battalions of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers bore their share in this immense struggle. It was this series of battles that began that course of continuous pressure which not only wore down the Germans, but brought home to them the probability of ultimate defeat.

Within the limits of a Short History it is impossible to describe in detail the long succession of attacks which it fell to the lot of the British troops to make. The actual gains in ground were not large, but the invincible heroism of the British armies, Old and New, undermined the German *moral* and established an ascendancy which meant the beginning of the end. The 2nd and 8th Battalions saw the bulk of the fighting, for they belonged to the 25th Division, which had the proud distinction of having served longer in the Somme battles than any other in the Army. A point of interest connected with these operations is that in them tanks were employed for the first time in the history of war. Of greater interest still for the Regiment is the fact that here was won its first Victoria Cross of the war. Lieutenant G. C. Coury, of the 1st/4th, was awarded this distinction for acts of gallantry in the actions fought. During an advance he was in command of two platoons ordered to dig a communication trench from the old firing line to the position won. By his fine example and his utter contempt of danger, he kept up the spirits of his men and completed his task under intense fire. Later, after his commanding officer had been wounded, he went out in broad daylight in front of the advanced position, and, in full view of the enemy, brought back his commanding officer over ground swept by machine-gun fire. He then assisted in rallying his men, and led them forward.

Another and collective act of gallantry by a party of men of the 8th Battalion deserves to be recorded. After an unsuccessful attack on the Thiepval front, in which the losses of the battalion had been very severe, a small party of the battalion—all volunteers—remained in the line for four days after the battalion had been

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withdrawn, in order to recover some of the wounded who were lying out in "No Man's Land," twenty-seven wounded of the 2nd Battalion being safely brought in.

The campaign on the Gallipoli Peninsula had come to a deadlock, and the troops had been withdrawn. The 6th Battalion first went to Egypt, where it took part in the defence of the Suez Canal. Early in 1916 the situation in Mesopotamia had become serious. Since 1914 a campaign, in which our forces were mainly from India, had been in progress against the Turks. The British force, pushing too far up country, had been compelled to retire and to throw itself into Kut-al-Amara on the Tigris, where it was now closely besieged. Reinforcements were sent to its relief including the 13th Division, in which was the 6th Battalion. The Battalion greatly distinguished itself, on one occasion carrying a position at the point of the bayonet in spite of heavy losses in officers and non-commissioned officers. In spite of strenuous efforts of the relieving force, it was impossible to save the place, and Kut-al-Amara was forced to surrender.

The 9th Battalion in Macedonia did not move up from the coast till July, when it took up a position on the Doiran-Vardar front. Here there was some severe fighting against the Bulgarians, who had come into the war as allies of Turkey, and who were holding a line of great natural strength.

1917.

THE success achieved against the Germans on the Somme in 1916 raised high hopes for the following year. Posterity would recall 1917 as "The Year of Victory." Unfortunately, things went the other way. A great offensive by the French ended in failure, and what was worse the French became dispirited, and there was even actual mutiny in their armies. Russia collapsed in revolution. There were reverses in Palestine and a deadlock in Macedonia. Italy, who had come in on the Allied side, met with disaster. The Germans started a submarine campaign of intense vigour, and the food supply of Great Britain was in serious danger. These gloomy occurrences were offset in part by success in Mesopotamia and by the entry of the United States on the Allied side. Nevertheless, 1917 was an anxious year.

The best way to check the submarine activity of the Germans was to attack or threaten their bases in Flanders. The first thing was to secure the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, which dominated Ypres, and to get a "jumping-off place" for the Flanders offensive.

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PRIVATE W. RATCLIFFE, 2ND BATTALION,
Winning the V.C. at the Battle of Messines, June 7th, 1917.

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Immense preparations had been made. Nineteen mines with one million pounds of explosives had been laid. At dawn on June 7th, the train was fired, eight miles of ridge were shattered, and the British advanced at once to the attack. In this Battle of Messines, the 2nd, 7th and 8th Battalions were engaged, and in it another Victoria Cross was gained for the Regiment. Private William Ratcliffe, of the 2nd Battalion The Prince of Wales's Volunteers, was awarded the V.C. for most conspicuous bravery. During an attack, Private Ratcliffe located an enemy machine gun which was firing into his comrades from the rear. He seized a rifle from a fallen soldier, and single-handed and on his own initiative he immediately rushed the gun position, bayoneting the gun's crew. He then brought the gun to our front line, and came into action with it. On previous occasions this very gallant soldier had displayed great resource, and had set an exceptionally fine example of devotion to duty.

This Battle of Messines was but the preliminary to the further great offensive in Flanders, known as the Third Battle of Ypres, in which the 2nd, 1st/4th, 2nd/4th (which had arrived in France in the preceding February), 1st/5th, 2nd/5th, 7th and 8th Battalions took part. It began on July 31st, and continued until November 10th, when weather conditions put an end to further operations, in which the casualties had been very severe. The 1st/5th Battalion was withdrawn with its division to a rest position near Epéhy, only to be involved in the great Battle of Cambrai. The order had been given " Stand or fall at your posts." Faithfully was this carried out, and the 1st/5th The Prince of Wales's Volunteers was practically wiped out of existence. In this battle, the 1st/4th Battalion was also engaged, and helped to withstand the German counter-attack. The remaining battalion in France—the 11th Pioneer Battalion—acted as part of the divisional troops of the 30th Division and did good work in various sectors.

Of the other battalions of the Regiment, the 1st was still in India; the 6th in Mesopotamia; and the 9th in Macedonia. The 6th were fortunate enough to take part in what was perhaps the outstanding feature of 1917—the capture of Baghdad. As the British columns approached the city on the morning of Sunday, March 11th, the mists fell away and the magic of the mirage caught it up and held it suspended in mid-air on a sea of glass—a never-to-be-forgotten sight. In the fighting, during the crossing of the Tigris, which led up to the fall of Baghdad, Private John Readitt won the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in an advance down a broad, deep watercourse. Five times

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he went forward in the face of very heavy machine-gun fire at close range, being the sole survivor on each occasion. After his officer had been killed, Private Readitt, on his own initiative organized and made several more advances. On reaching the enemy barricade, he was forced by an enemy counter-attack to retire, but he gave ground slowly, continuing to throw bombs. On supports reaching him, he held a forward bend by bombing until the position was consolidated. The action of this gallant soldier saved the left flank and enabled his battalion to maintain its position.

In Macedonia, the 9th Battalion took part in an offensive carried out by the 22nd and 26th Divisions against the Bulgarian front. Although the brigade to which the 9th Battalion belonged reached its objective, the attack was unsuccessful elsewhere, and the two divisions, after long and fierce fighting, were compelled to retire to their trenches.

1918.

In 1918, the Great War was won, but there were dark days before victory came. Russia had made a separate peace, and the American troops would not be fit to take an effective part until well on in the year. Germany therefore decided to make a desperate effort before it was too late, and accordingly in March, April, May and June, 1918, the enemy delivered a series of smashing attacks against the Allies' front near Amiens, in Flanders, on the Aisne, and in Champagne, which came within an ace of success. When the German attack began to slacken, the French and British struck back, and August 8th, when the decisive offensive of our Fourth Army began, was the " Black Day " for Germany. The Germans were driven back relentlessly from position to position. Meanwhile, elsewhere things had gone badly for the allies of the enemy. In Palestine our forces put the Turks out of the war. Bulgaria crumpled up. The Austrians were disastrously defeated by the Italians. Germany, recognizing that the game was up, sued for peace. On November 11th, an armistice was signed on terms by which Germany acknowledged total defeat, and the war was over.

The battalions in France had therefore to endure hard knocks before triumph came. Not all of them, though, for, owing to a shortage in man-power, it was found necessary to disband certain battalions, and to distribute the personnel amongst those that were left. The 1st/5th, 2nd/5th, 7th and 8th Battalions of the Regiment thus ceased to be, after an existence full of honour if brief in years. Of the surviving battalions, the 2nd was involved in the German

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thrust at Amiens—the " Big Push " or " March, 1918," as it is always called by those who took part in it. Here the fighting was of an intensity never before experienced in war, and the British Third and Fifth Armies were bent back almost, but not quite, to breaking-point. The 2nd Battalion in this German offensive fought for six successive days against the fiercest attack ever made in the history of war, the casualties sustained by it being 225 of all ranks. Transferred northward with its division, the 2nd Battalion was involved in another German offensive, and in just over a week had 646 casualties. Moved down early in May to the Aisne country, yet once again had the Battalion to encounter a great German attack in which our troops were forced back over the Marne—that Marne which the little British Army had crossed in triumph nearly four years before. By June 1st, another 339 casualties had been sustained, the officers killed including Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Allsopp, D.S.O.

Owing to its terrible losses, the 2nd Battalion for a time lost its identity, the remnants of it helping to form a composite battalion, but the end of June found it again a unit, this time of the 30th Division, with which it took part in the advance to victory, the Armistice finding the Battalion at Flobecq in Belgium.

The 1st/4th Battalion played a stirring part in the April offensive of the Germans on the Lys. Our Portuguese allies were driven back, and the 1st/4th, on the exposed flank of the 55th Division, had a very difficult task—a task it nobly fulfilled—fighting while the battle lasted, and doing an immense deal of engineer work when the fighting ceased. The 2nd/4th was particularly associated with the advance to victory. On August 28th, it suffered 175 casualties: on September 2nd it captured 400 prisoners and 60 machine guns. Later in the month it fought its way across the Canal du Nord and the Scheldt Canal, entering Lille on October 17th, amid scenes of the wildest enthusiasm.

The 11th Battalion suffered severely in the " Big Push " on the Somme, losing 11 officers and 400 other ranks. Later it was broken up, except for a small cadre employed in training American troops, but was re-formed of low-category men, and took part in the final advance through Flanders. During March, 1918, Corporal J. T. Davies, of this Battalion, won the Victoria Cross. His company, being outflanked on both sides, was ordered to withdraw. Corporal Davies knew that the only line of withdrawal lay through a deep stream lined with a belt of barbed wire, and that it was imperative to hold up the enemy as long as possible. He mounted the parapet and kept his Lewis gun in action to the last, causing

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the enemy many casualties, and checking their advance. By his very great devotion to duty he saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Of the other battalions of the Regiment, the 6th remained in Mesopotamia, sharing in the fighting there, until the Armistice. The 9th, in Macedonia, in addition to suffering from malaria, dysentery, and heat-stroke, had some stiff fighting on September 18th, when, out of 430 who went into action, 262 were killed, wounded or missing. But though the losses were heavy, the attack was wholly successful and absolutely decisive.

We return now to the 1st Battalion. At the outbreak of the Great War in August, 1914, the 1st Battalion was stationed at Quetta in India, and was one of the very few Regular battalions of British infantry to be retained in India to maintain internal order and to assist in restraining the activities of the ever-turbulent tribesmen of the North-West Frontier. In the early part of 1918, the necessity arose for undertaking punitive operations against the Marri tribe, who had made a night attack on February 19th against one of our border forts. Operations were carried out under the general superintendence of Lieutenant-General Wapshare, and the battalion formed part of the Duki column under Brigadier-General Hardy, which encountered the enemy at Habd and forced him to retire, leaving 70 dead on the ground. Three months of mountain warfare sufficed to complete the subjection of the Marris, but during that time the troops had to bivouac in the rain and cold, which was at times intense, without tents, while before the force was withdrawn the temperature had risen to 110 degrees in the shade. " These hardships, however," to quote General Sir Charles Monro's despatch, " were willingly and cheerfully borne, and the soldierly spirit of the troops throughout was excellent."

Later, the battalion was called out in aid of the civil power during the riots in the Punjab, a very dangerous period in the history of India, since these riots were the result of the insidious efforts, protracted over many years, of native agitators, who hoped to drive the British from India. The Third Afghan War had been planned to coincide with these risings, but the scheme miscarried, and the unrest was scotched before the more serious military operations commenced. The battalion was sent up to Peshawar with the 2nd Indian Division to deal with the Afghan invasion and with the tribesmen who took up arms in sympathy with the invaders. Several minor operations were carried out from Peshawar against bands of raiders, and the battalion then moved to Ali Masjid in the Khyber Pass, whence an attack was made upon Chora Fort, a very

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THE COLOURS OF THE 1ST BATTALION.

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strongly-built work made of concrete, and regarded as impregnable by the tribesemen. It was, however, effectually destroyed by the fire of our 6-inch howitzers. This was the first occasion in frontier warfare upon which howitzers of this calibre, aircraft and infantry had co-operated in military operations. For this campaign, the battalion brought to the Regiment the battle honour of "Baluchistan, 1918."

Such in bare outline was the Great War of 1914-1919 and the part played in it by The Prince of Wales's Volunteers. It was a stupendous war. All totals were in millions. To take the British alone, in November, 1918, our Army figures amounted to over five millions of all ranks. Our casualties were, roughly, one million killed and two million wounded. Towards the end, the war was costing us nearly seven million pounds *a day*. The total casualties of all the combatants exceeded thirty-six million, of which over eleven million were killed. The total direct expenditure of the combatants exceeded fifty-six thousand million pounds sterling. It was a war in which were actively engaged England, France, Russia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Greece, Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Egypt, Japan, and the United States. Hence its other name, "The World War." In it five thousand four hundred and twenty-seven of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers laid down their lives for their King and country, and thus upheld the glorious traditions of the Regiment.

THE END.

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THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS

(SOUTH LANCASHIRE)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. The Sphinx, superscribed " Egypt."

BATTLE HONOURS

" Louisburg."
" Martinique, 1762."
" Havannah."
" St. Lucia, 1778."
" Monte Video."
" Rolica."
" Vimiera."
" Corunna."
" Talavera."
" Badajoz."
" Salamanca."
" Vittoria."
" Pyrenees."
" Nivelle."
" Orthes."
" Toulouse."
" Peninsula."
" Niagara."
" Waterloo."
" Candahar, 1842."
" Ghuznee, 1842."
" Cabool, 1842."
" Maharajpore."
" Sevastopol."
" Lucknow."
" New Zealand."
" Relief of Ladysmith."
" South Africa, 1899-1902."
" Afghanistan, 1919."

THE GREAT WAR—20 BATTALIONS

" Mons."
" Le Cateau."
" Retreat from Mons."
" Marne, 1914."
" Aisne, 1914, '18."
" La Bassée, 1914."
" Messines, 1914, '17, '18."
" Armentières, 1914."
" Ypres, 1914, '15, '17, '18."
" Nonne Bosschen."
" St. Julien."
" Frezenberg."
" Bellewaarde."
" Somme, 1916, '18."
" Albert, 1916."
" Bazentin."
" Pozières."
" Guillemont."
" Ginchy."
" Flers-Courcelette."
" Morval."
" Le Transloy."
" Ancre Heights."
" Ancre, 1916."
" Arras, 1917, '18."
" Scarpe, 1917, '18."
" Pilckem."
" Langemarck, 1917."
" Menin Road."
" Polygon Wood."
" Passchendaele."
" Cambrai, 1917, '18."
" St. Quentin."
" Bapaume, 1918."
" Rosières."
" Lys."
" Estaires."
" Hazebrouck."
" Bailleul."
" Kemmel."
" Scherpenberg."
" Drocourt-Quéant."
" Hindenburg Line."
" Canal du Nord."
" Courtrai."
" Selle."
" Sambre."
" France and Flanders, 1914-18."
" Doiran, 1917, '18."
" Macedonia, 1915-18."
" Suvla."
" Sari Bair."
" Gallipoli, 1915."
" Egypt, 1916."
" Tigris, 1916."
" Kut al Amara, 1917."
" Baghdad."
" Mesopotamia, 1916-18."
" Baluchistan, 1918."

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